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STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 77, No. 4 ©SS 2018

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018

平成30年4月23日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

ANALYSIS

N. Korea testing freeze puts ball in US's court

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's declaration that it will freeze nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests puts the ball into Washington's court as the sides prepare for a historic summit.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis over the North's nuclear weapons program will be put to their first test Friday when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets

“The administration needs to start sweating the details on how it'll take what Kim's given up and turn it into a winner of a deal.”

Ankit Panda
security analyst

with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in the heavily fortified border area.

That meeting is largely seen as a precursor to Kim's summit with President

Donald Trump, expected in May or early June.

North Korea made its first move when it said it will stop test-firing intercontin-

ental ballistic missiles and will dismantle its northeastern nuclear test site.

Experts noted the North likely can afford to take a break from testing after demonstrating alarming progress with dozens of missile launches and its sixth and most powerful nuclear test last year.

The moratorium also didn't mention short- to medium-range missiles that could target U.S. bases in South Korea and Japan.

SEE FREEZE ON PAGE 14

Training in transition

Special operations soldiers shifting emphasis to help African nations fight terrorist groups

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U.S. Special Forces soldiers advise Nigerian troops during Flintlock 2018, which ended Friday. The two-week war game was intended to boost combat capabilities of the eight nations taking part.

Courtesy of Special Operations Command Africa

MILITARY

Recruiting text prompts a policy change

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Army has warned recruiters about using texts or social media to contact potential recruits after a mass text sent to high school parents near Indianapolis disclosed hundreds of personal cellphone numbers.

An Army policy sent out last week stressed the need to protect personally identifiable information and use only approved apps and websites. It also required recruiters to get prior written consent before emailing or texting a recipient's mobile phone, a rule some said was too restrictive.

The restrictions came just days before the Army lowered its recruiting target last week from 80,000 — about 12,000 more than last year — to 76,500. Six months into the recruiting year, the service had brought in only some 28,000 new soldiers, Army spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said Friday.

Since 2001, U.S. law has required schools that receive federal funding to give out contact information for juniors and seniors to military recruiters, colleges and prospec-

tive employers.

The Army has systems in place to protect that data, as well as other information gathered from prospects. However, a local recruiter mistakenly sent the group text with incorrect settings. He's since been counseled, the Army said.

Many parents and students at Brownsburg High School northwest of Indianapolis, Ind., didn't even know the military had obtained their numbers until more than 200 of them received a group text offering to discuss Army careers this month.

Tammy Imel, a parent of twin boys at the school, said the text came to her phone when she was in a meeting with her company's senior management in Chicago. She switched the phone to vibrate and stuffed it in her bag as a deluge of follow-up texts from people asking to be taken off the group text poured in. She provided a screenshot of the text showing 249 addressees.

"There were people that were mad ... saying all kinds of nasty stuff," Imel said.

After the new guidance was disseminated, recruiters took to the web to protect that restrictions on texting and social media deprive them of their most effective tools for reaching out to children of the digital age as they face pressure to reach recruiting targets and reverse years of Army drawdowns.

In announcing the reduction of recruiting targets Friday, officials pledged not to lower standards to meet their goals. Officials said the decision was a result of a lower-than-expected increase to the service's end strength authorized by Congress this year and higher-than-usual retention rates.

Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey, the top



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A soldier talks with students at Arlington High School in Washington state in 2015. A new Army policy stresses the need to protect personally identifiable information when recruiting.

enlisted soldier in the Army, said he anticipated a "summer surge" in recruiting — new enlistments typically ramp up after graduation.

However, confusion about what communications methods are allowed could complicate efforts to attract enough recruits.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Sodano, a California Army National Guardsman who was an active-duty recruiter in Southern California from 2012-15, said most American teens and young adults don't answer calls from unknown numbers and don't check voicemail. But they do read texts. "You usually get a reply back, even if it's just 'Go away, I'm not interested,'" he said.

The Army was already emphasizing social media when he went through recruiting school six years ago, he said.

Lately, the recruiting command has moved away from traditional mass marketing and cold-calling. Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, the command's top leader, told Defense One in October that he was impressed

by recruiters' abilities to "leverage" sites like Facebook and other apps to reach young people.

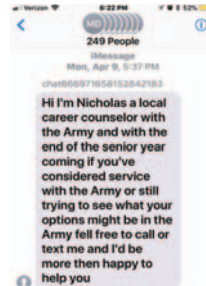
But some of those recruiters were told this month to halt such methods, according to a screenshot of an apparent internal email posted in an online forum.

"Back to the basics, ladies and gentleman," it said. "Telephone calls and face to face."

Many current recruiters complained in the online forum that "the basics" don't work anymore. Stars and Stripes contacted some recruiters but they refused to allow their names to be used or declined to comment, fearing retribution.

Kelli Bland, a spokeswoman for the recruiting command, said the latest guidance was simply meant to reinforce existing rules on data protection and not ban the use of texts and social media altogether.

"However, they need to move the conversation to the office, phone or an approved, secure website when the discussion goes beyond the individual's general information,"



Courtesy of Tammy Imel

These screenshots show part of a text message conversation from April 9 started by an Army recruiter sent to parents and students in Indiana.

she said in an email.

Stars and Stripes reporter Corey Dickstein contributed to this report. garland.chad@stripes.com

Correction

The headlines, story and accompanying photos in the April 21 Middle East edition on moves by the USS Harry S. Truman carrier strike group should have said it has entered the European theater of operations. The group had not arrived in the Mediterranean as initially reported.

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MILITARY



A soldier shoots at targets from inside a building during an exercise.

Testing their RESOLVE

Troops on rotation in Germany fight through tear gas in combat demolition exercise

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team engaged targets, blew up trenches and faced waves of searing tear gas during the live-fire portion of Exercise Combined Resolve.

During the exercise Thursday, the soldiers donned chemical warfare gear and attacked through training obstacles from Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A2 Abrams tanks.

The soldiers then dismounted and used demolition tac-

tics to clear paths for the vehicles. That's when the CS tear gas grenade attack hit them. The gas cloud burned eyes and filled soldiers' mouths with a heavy, peppery taste as they worked to don their gas masks, create paths and engage targets on foot.

The exercise is the culmination event of the Fort Riley, Kan.-based brigade's tour in Europe. The next portion of the exercise will take them to the Hohenfels Maneuver Area, where they will be among 3,700 soldiers from 13 allied and partner nations.

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A soldier with the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team puts on his gas mask as a cloud of tear gas envelops him during an exercise at Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Thursday.

Left: Pfc. Kyle Arendsz throws a Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle into the sky.

PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes



Soldiers conduct a patrol through a German forest.



MILITARY

Navy retires F/A-18C Hornet from combat

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

It's the end of an era for the Navy's F/A-18C Hornet as officials announced the jet's recently completed deployment aboard the USS Carl Vinson was its last.

The service recently told Stars and Stripes it no longer will use the jet in combat or regular deployments, but will find other uses for the attack aircraft first deployed decades ago.

Though the three-month mission that ended March 12 was the Hornet's final full deployment, Strike Fighter Squadron 34 will fly the jets in the 25-nation Rim of the Pacific exercise this summer, said Lt. j.g. Emily Judstra, a Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet spokeswoman.

After that, the Hornets mainly will be used in demonstrations and training with the Blue Angels, at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center and in reserve squadrons, she said.

The San Diego-based VFA-34 will be the last squadron to transition to the F/A-18E Super Hornets when it does so next February, Judstra said.

The Hornet's similar-looking successor, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, will continue to be used in deployments and combat.

The Super Hornet, which was rolled out in 1999, is about 25 percent larger, with "increased maneuverability, range, payload and more powerful engines" than its predecessor, according to Boeing.

The F/A-18C's departure creates room for newer fighter jets on flight decks. The Navy's F-35C Lightning II is coming closer to operational status, completing fleet carrier qualifications last month.

The service said last fall that its version of the F-35 — which has drawn scrutiny over a predicted \$1 trillion-plus cost of operations over its expected 60-year life span — will reach initial operational capacity this year.

The Hornet's first C models entered active duty in 1987 and cost \$29 million each. In its earlier years, the jet "[broke] all records for tactical aircraft in availability, reliability and maintainability," the Navy said.

"The F/A-18 demonstrated its capabilities and versatility during Operation Desert Storm, shooting down enemy fighters and subsequently bombing enemy targets with the same aircraft on the same mission," the Navy said.

Cmdr. Thomas Bodine, U.S. Navy Federal Executive Fellow to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, said the Hornet proved



ALEX CORONA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Marine Cpl. Dylan Lippard observes a replenishment at sea in March from atop an F/A-18C Hornet assigned to Marine Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 312 on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt.

to be a "stalwart, front-line strike fighter for the Navy" over the years.

"The aircraft and her pilots have contributed to every major combat operation ranging from the 1998 Operation Desert Fox in Iraq to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan to the ongoing Operation Inherent Resolve in Syria and Iraq," Bodine said. "The [F/A-18C's] departure from the Navy's operational roster marks an end of an era."

While the Navy's Hornets have seen

their final combat action, Bodine said the aircraft's impact will remain.

"Her legacy continues both within the [Marine Corps], whose F/A-18C/D Hornet squadrons are flying her with great precision and lethality, and through the Navy's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, which serves as the only operational strike fighter in the Navy's inventory," he said.

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3-D printer keeps F-35B flying during USS Wasp deployment

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION Iwakuni, Japan — State-of-the-art parts fabrication is keeping America's most advanced stealth fighter in the air during its first deployment aboard the USS Wasp.

When a plastic bumper for a landing-gear door wore out this month on an F-35B Lightning II embarked on the amphibious assault ship, a 3-D printer was used to whip up a new one.

The Iwakuni-based jet from Fighter Attack Squadron 121 later flew successfully with the new part, a Marine statement said.

Called "additive manufacturing," the process from Naval Air Systems Command allowed the Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 31 to create the new bumper and to get it approved for use within days, the statement said. Otherwise, they would have had to replace the entire door assembly, which is expensive and time-consuming.

"While afloat, our motto is 'fix it forward,'" Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel Rodriguez, CLB-31's maintenance officer, said in the statement. "3-D printing is a great tool to make that happen."

The Navy said parts created using the 3-D printer are only a temporary fix, but it kept the jet from being grounded while waiting for a replacement from stateside.

Lt. Col. Richard Rusnok, commander of VMFA-121, lauded the use of the new technology.

"Although our supply personnel and logisticians do an outstanding job getting us parts, being able to rapidly make our own parts is a huge advantage as it cuts down our footprint thus making us more agile in a shipboard or expeditionary environment," he said in the statement.

Marine Sgt. Adrian Willis, a computer



STORMY MENDEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Sgt. Adrian Willis, a computer and telephone technician with Combat Logistic Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, explains the functions of a 3-D printer aboard the USS Wasp while underway in March in the Pacific Ocean.

and telephone technician who created the bumper, said he was thrilled to be involved in the process.

"I think 3-D printing is definitely the future — it's absolutely the direction the Marine Corps needs to be going," he said

in the statement.

The printer has been used multiple times during the patrol, the Navy said, including to create a lens cap for a camera on a small, unmanned ground vehicle used by an explosive ordnance disposal team.

Templates for the parts will be uploaded to a Marine Corps-wide 3-D printing database to make them accessible to other units.

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MILITARY

US soldiers shift training emphasis

Special operations exercise prepares African troops to fight terrorist groups

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

AGADEZ, Niger — The Nigerian troops, 250 miles from their higher headquarters in Agadez, were reluctant at first to call their commanders with information about the unfolding battle simulation.

During Flintlock 2018, the largest U.S. special operations exercise in Africa, a contingent of Green Berets aimed to eliminate that hesitancy.

"I think they realized they can give feedback back up to the headquarters to provide senior level commanders tactical guidance and vision of the battle," said Capt. Neal, a detachment commander with the 3rd Special Forces Group who is identified by his first name only for security reasons. "This exercise definitely facilitated that conversation."

Since 2005, U.S. special operations forces have been conducting the Flintlock exercise in western Africa. Yet this is the first year when the effort has focused on developing higher level command and control capabilities of the militaries in the region, where local forces are involved in a battle against militant groups that commanders say has gained momentum in recent years.

The transition from training centered on small-unit combat skills to advising higher level teams coincides with shifts in how missions involving U.S. troops in Niger will be conducted.

In the wake of an October am-

bush in the Nigerian village of Tongo Tongo, the risk U.S. forces face in isolated parts of Africa was brought into focus. Four U.S. soldiers were killed in the attack while on a joint patrol with local forces.

"The threat has been increasing since last fall, and Tongo Tongo was simply an indicator of that, and we have adjusted our activities accordingly," said Special Operations Command Africa commander Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks, who was in Niger to observe the Flintlock exercise. "We mitigate risk as we always do."

Green Berets still conduct patrols with Nigerian forces. However, decisions on when to join Nigerian patrols are given more scrutiny now, Hicks said.

"I would certainly not say we have scaled back," he said. "If anything, we've probably increased focus on our personal investment and intellectual activity to better understand the threat."

Even ahead of the October ambush, there was growing recognition inside SOCAFRICA that more attention must be paid to ensuring local forces can conduct counterterrorism missions independently, a military official said.

That meant developing more command and control capabilities. At Flintlock, a joint multinational headquarters was set up in Agadez to manage missions in Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal, where some 1,900 troops were war-gaming in remote camps. The headquarters



JEREMIAH RUNSER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Nigerien soldiers train with the 20th Special Forces Group during Flintlock 2018 in Niger on April 16.

and ground forces coordinated air and ground operations and examined intelligence.

The larger aim is to help soldiers assigned to the new G-5 Sahel, a regional alliance, to be better prepared to fight groups that include al-Qaida and Islamic State affiliates.

"Any time a country can solve its own security issues or threats, that's what you want and that's what we are trying to help with," Neal said.

Col. Brad Moses, commander of the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 3rd Special Forces Group — the unit aligned with the SOCAFRICA mission — said there was a concerted effort to make this year's Flintlock more about countering day-to-day threats local troops face.

"If we are going to come forward, we might as well tie it to something that is happening," said Moses. "At the end of this, everyone can go back and say they've learned more about our partners in Africa."

However, Green Berets say they will continue to roll in the dirt with their local partners, doing the kind of combat tactical work that has been a training mainstay.



DANIEL LOVE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Nigerien soldiers conduct close quarters combat training with U.S. Special Forces advisers April 13 in Agadez, Niger.

"We are still training with tactical units across the continent," Hicks said. "As those tactical units gain proficiency and capability and capacity, we are adding the focus on higher level command and control. We are building capability and capacity to deal with threats we see in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin."

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Marines learn to operate with Aussie warships

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps is learning to operate with Australia's amphibious warships and will embed 40 legislators on the HMAS Adelaide during summer's Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii, according to the commander of U.S. rotational forces Down Under.

The Marines' annual six-month deployment to the Northern Territory, which got underway last month, includes nearly 1,600 Marines, eight MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and an artillery battery of six M777 Howitzers.

Marine Rotational Force-Darwin commander Col. Jay Schnelle told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Friday that his Marines will prepare for future operations on Australia's landing helicopter dock ships, the HMAS Canberra and HMAS Adelaide.

Marine Corps Ospreys have already landed on the \$3 billion mini-aircraft carriers, which

are capable of handling more than 1,000 troops, 100 vehicles and up to 18 helicopters.

The rotational force in Darwin is working toward embarking a company of Marines on the Australian amphib, Schnelle said.

"There's preparation toward where we would have a portion of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin embarked on [a landing helicopter dock ship]," he said.

One of the vessels could eventually serve as a platform for a disaster-response drill involving U.S. and Australian forces, he added.

The Marines in Darwin will work with three Australian army brigades this year, Schnelle said.

"There's going to be an amphibious capability within each of their brigades," he said. "It's a natural relationship for the U.S. Marine Corps."

Amphibious forces could be key to victory in any conflict in the Western Pacific, where China is aggressively expanding its territory by occupying small islets, reclaiming land

and building military facilities in the South China Sea.

Earlier this month, three Australian warships — the HMAS Anzac, HMAS Toowoomba and HMAS Success — were confronted by the People's Liberation Army in the sea while bound for Vietnam.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull warned the Chinese last week that his Navy wouldn't be stopped from asserting a "right-of-freedom of navigation throughout the world's oceans," according to The Australian newspaper.

The Marines in Darwin will work with F/A-18D Hornets from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. They'll also train with UH-1Y Venom utility helicopters and AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters out of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, during part of the deployment, Schnelle said.

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MILITARY

Admiral calls off probe of Bible in Okinawa display

By CARL PRINE

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Although the Navy vowed to probe complaints by the troops that Navy officials on Okinawa were trying to convert people to Christianity through a Vietnam War display, an admiral in San Diego nixed the investigation.

In a letter dated April 17 and mailed to New York attorney Donald G. Rehkopf Jr., San Diego-based Rear Adm. Paul D. Pearigen said that "neither further review nor an investigation of this matter is necessary."

That contradicted a message sent to Rehkopf 10 days earlier by Navy Medicine West paralegal David Ostrander, who indicated that "we are investigating the matter now" and would have "more information to follow."

Rehkopf represents the nonprofit Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

On behalf of 26 servicemembers or Department of Defense civilian employees and their families on Okinawa, the New Mexico-based foundation had filed a seven-page complaint alleging that military leaders had placed a Christian Bible on a Prisoner of War Missing in Action display inside U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, the Navy's largest overseas hospital.

A placard on the "Missing Man" memorial told visitors in English and Japanese that the religious book "represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded one nation under God."

Michael "Mikey" Weinstein, a

former Air Force officer and the foundation's founder, said most of the petitioners were Christian and also included Jews, Buddhists, Shintoists, nonbelievers and a person who followed a Native American faith.

In his letter, Pearigen, the Navy Medicine West commander, said the exhibit had been "part of the tradition and custom of the military and the nation for many years."

Pearigen reasoned that the Bible wasn't the focal point of the display but was one of nine ceremonial items. As for the placard, Pearigen said it didn't promote religion but instead recalled "the strength and resolve required of POWs and MIA personnel in the most difficult of times."

When asked for comment for this story, Pearigen's staff promised a statement this week.

Weinstein told the newspaper by telephone and email that his legal team has requested an investigation into Pearigen and his clinic by the Department of Defense's inspector general.

"Rear Adm. Pearigen is horribly wrong on both the law and the attendant historical facts in this matter at hand," Weinstein said. "Sadly, he appears to need a little history lesson about the origins of the POW/MIA table."

In his letter, Pearigen said that the "Missing Man" display originated with the National League of the Family. Weinstein said that wasn't true, that it began with the "River Rats" of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association in Thailand in 1967 — and their table didn't include a Bible, he said.

Navy's anti-mine program moves forward after new testing

By CARL PRINE

The San Diego Union-Tribune

The Navy announced Friday that it has taken another step forward in a \$34 million anti-mine program that relies on flying robots to help Marines hit the beach.

On April 6, the San Diego-based littoral combat ship *Cronin* successfully completed second-phase operational testing of the Coastal Battlefield Reconnaissance and Analysis system.

Scientists won't have COBRA ready for service for at least four more years, but the *Cronado's* crew proved they can deploy a drone from sea to a potentially hostile shore to ferret out lethal minefields before Marines storm

ashore, a milestone in a program that's spanned three decades.

"The crew onboard was the perfect fit to conduct this testing," said Danny Lunden, a test director at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Ventura County, in a statement emailed to The San Diego Union-Tribune. "We all worked so well together and did so in such a short amount of time."

Testing by the *Cronado's* crew on the highly classified COBRA system began on Feb. 22 and leaned on help from the "Black-jacks" of North Island-based Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 21 and Mine Countermeasure Detachment 6 out of Naval Base San Diego.

"It is incredible how all three different entities came together

to accomplish this mission," said Cmdr. Karl McCarthy, the *Cronado's* skipper. "It took an ample amount of time, dedication and teamwork from all parties to make this successful."

The *Cronado* returned four months ago from a tour of the Far East that began in mid-2016. It's been tagged as a testing vessel to help the Navy develop the latest technology and tactics for the littoral combat ship's three missions — hunting and killing enemy surface warships, anti-submarine warfare and minesweeping.

"The *Cronado* was waiting to undergo maintenance in the shipyard and there was some time to do the testing," Lt. Miranda V. Williams, spokeswoman for Littoral Combat Ship Squadron

1, said by phone. "They were assessing the crews, the equipment and the overall effectiveness of the system. They feel like it went very well."

The Pentagon hopes littoral combat ships like the *Cronado* eventually replace the aging fleet of Avenger-class minesweepers, with one of their key missions being locating bombs on a beach.

That starts with a littoral combat ship launching an MQ-8B Fire Scout drone over a coastline. A multi-spectral camera mounted on it scans the beach and surf zone for minefields and obstacles. Software on the ship later sifts huge amounts of data to map minefields before grunts walk into them.

What began as a Marine pro-

gram in the 1990s was transferred to the Navy in 2004. Because it relied on incremental development of the latest technology, Pentagon planners divided it into blocks.

During Block I, COBRA was supposed to find unburied mines and obstacles on a beach during the day. Block II, at nighttime. Block III, at all hours, buried and unburied, in the sand and the surf.

In 2011, Arete Associates won a \$26 million deal to engineer and make three COBRAs. The Pentagon added \$8.5 million for the Arizona company to rig it to work on a littoral combat ship.

The Navy hopes to have the Block II system working by 2022 but has set no deadline for implementing the Block III technology.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

When Doves Fly, a 76th Airlift Squadron team, carries their teammate on a stretcher to finish a Courage, Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Respect Challenge obstacle course at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Friday.

CLEAR challenges abuses

By MICHAEL B. KELLER

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The 86th Airlift Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office, with the help of supporting agencies and volunteers, hosted the fourth annual Courage, Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Respect Challenge at Ramstein Air Base on Friday.

The CLEAR Challenge tests participants physically and mentally with obstacles that symbolize the effects of sexual assault and substance abuse. Teams of up to six are judged by time and points.

Nearly 200 people on 32 teams participated in this year's challenge, which included events such as a silent walk, bubble soccer, tug-of-war matches and an obstacle course.

In addition to the events and obstacle course, supporting agencies had booths with information available on preventing sexual assault and alcohol abuse.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Bridgett Manning wears a blindfold during an obstacle at Ramstein on Friday.

MILITARY

Brunswick quick to thrive in drills

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A Navy high-speed, shallow-draft transport ship is proving its worth this month during disaster-response drills in Southeast Asia, said the vessel's British commander.

The USNS Brunswick has deployed to the region along with the hospital ship USNS Mercy for Pacific Partnership 2018, the Asia-Pacific's largest humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief preparedness mission, which kicked off in February and runs through June.

The Brunswick is visiting Yap, Palau, Malaysia and Thailand, while the Mercy, which was recently in Indonesia, has scheduled stops in Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Vietnam. The ships are carrying servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, along with personnel from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

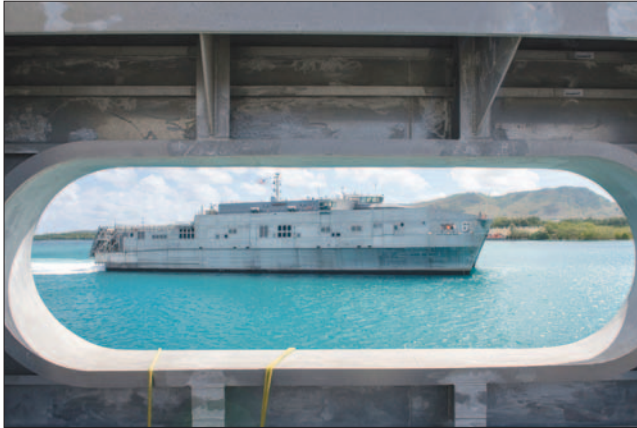
British Royal Navy Capt. Peter Olive, who is skipping the Brunswick and serving as Pacific Partnership's deputy mission commander, told reporters during a teleconference this month that the uniquely designed transport ship's speed makes it ideal for visits to far-flung Micronesian islands.

"She is a real friend of the Western Pacific," he said.

Ships like the Brunswick, which was launched in May 2015, can travel up to 1,200 nautical miles at up to 45 knots carrying personnel, equipment and supplies, the Navy said.

The Brunswick replaced a similar ship, the USNS Fall River, which was slated to join this year's Pacific Partnership until a pre-deployment inspection revealed the need for maintenance and repairs.

The Fall River visited Kuching — capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo — during last year's Pacific Partnership mission. Getting



BYRON LINDER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USNS Brunswick prepares to moor at Naval Base Guam in support of Pacific Partnership last month. The Asia-Pacific's largest humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief preparedness mission runs through June.

there required the ship to enter a river and turn with limited space, U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Kamala Lakshmi said during the teleconference.

"And so the presence of this different kind of vessel has expanded the reach and scope of Pacific Partnership," she said. "That we are having both the Mercy and the Brunswick allows us greater flexibility in what we can do."

The Mercy recently arrived at Port Klang, near the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, and the Brunswick will be in Tawau on Borneo later this month.

The visits focus on military and civilian preparedness for a natural disaster, Lakshmi said.

"This exercise really supports Malaysia and the U.S. in their military relationship," she said,

noting that Malaysia will for the first time send a warship to the biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii this summer.

Pacific Partnership mission commander Capt. David Bretz said events in Malaysia will expand the Navy's ability to operate with the local government and military.

"Our goal is to ensure that we are all prepared to quickly assess and respond together when the next natural disaster strikes the region," he said. "It's not 'if,' unfortunately, it is 'when,' and we must prepare."

The Brunswick has already visited Yap and Palau, where personnel carried out engineering projects and provided locals with medical care, Bretz said.

"In Yap we managed to see

something like 1,184 patients; that's around one-sixth of the population of the main island," Olive said.

An engineering project at a Palau elementary school that doubles as a storm shelter improved access for disabled people and strengthened the facility against hurricanes, he said.

Seventy personnel from the Brunswick joined in a disaster-response exercise on Palau involving the local maritime law enforcement agency, Olive said.

Marines and Japanese personnel from the ship also laid a wreath in honor of those who fell during a World War II battle at Peleliu, he added.

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DOD civilian guilty of sex abuse at Navy base in Japan

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A Defense Department civilian worker pleaded guilty to a federal charge of abusive sexual contact Thursday after investigators said he sexually assaulted a co-worker while on a temporary duty assignment at Yokosuka.

Michael Cerera, 36, admitted to crawling into a fellow employee's hotel bed while she was asleep in the early morning hours of Jan. 23, 2016, according to federal court documents. The woman woke up to find Cerera kissing, licking and inappropriately touching her beneath her clothing.

Court documents did not list the name of the base hotel where the crime happened.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Oesterle said Cerera's actions fit the abusive sexual contact charge because his co-worker was "physically incapable of declining participation in or communicating unwillingness to engage in" the sexual acts while she was asleep.

Cerera, who lives in Port Orchard, Wash., is out of jail on bond until his sentencing hearing, which is scheduled for Aug. 9. He will be required to register as a sex offender.

Cerera could face up to three years in prison and at least five years of probation upon release. However, prosecutors said in the plea agreement they would recommend a prison sentence "at the low end" of U.S. sentencing guidelines.

A judge could also make Cerera pay a fine of up to \$250,000 and order him to pay restitution to his victim, according to court documents.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Kabul bomber kills scores registering to vote



RAHMAT GUL/AP

A relative of a victim cries outside a voter registration center which was attacked by a suicide bomber in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday.

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber killed at least 57 people at a voter registration center in Western Kabul on Sunday, officials said, the latest in a string of attacks seeking to curtail the county's upcoming parliamentary elections.

Public Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Majro said more than 100 others were wounded by the blast, claimed by Islamic State.

The group's AMAQ news agency did not name the attacker, who detonated himself in the predominantly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi. ISIS often targets Shiites.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the bomber approached the registration center on foot as people gathered to collect national identification cards. He said women and children were among the victims.

President Ashraf Ghani condemned the "heinous" attack on Twitter.

"I wish Allah's mercy upon

those who martyred, speedy recovery to the wounded and convey my deep condolences to victims' families," he said.

The United Nations also expressed outrage at the bombing.

"Compounding the callous disregard for the lives of civilians, the killing appears to be part of a wholly unacceptable effort by extremists to deter Afghan citizens from carrying out their constitutional right to take part in elections," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. Secretary-General's special representative for Afghanistan.

Security has been a major concern in the run-up to Afghanistan's long-delayed parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in late October.

Voter registration began on April 14.

Since then, at least two other registration centers in different parts of the country have reportedly been targeted.

Zubair Babakarkhali contributed to this report.

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Syrian forces bomb militants in bid to enforce evacuation

By ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces used warplanes, helicopters and artillery on Sunday to pound districts of the capital held by Islamic State in a bid to enforce an evacuation deal reached with the militants earlier in the week.

The militants agreed to give up their last pocket in southern Damascus on Friday but have yet to begin surrendering to government forces and relocating to ISIS-held areas elsewhere in the country.

State-run al-Ikhbariya TV showed thick gray smoke billowing from the ISIS-held Hajar al-Aswad neighborhood on Sunday, and government warplanes streaking overhead amid heavy bombardment of the area. Hundreds of ISIS fighters and allied militants are holed up in Hajar al-Aswad and the nearby Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp.

Residents of Damascus reported hearing loud booms throughout the night and Sunday morning.

President Bashar Assad has escalated his military campaign to retake all remaining enclaves in the capital and surrounding areas. The ISIS-held areas in southern Damascus are the last holdouts.

Chemical weapons inspectors collected samples from Douma on Saturday, two weeks after the suspected gas attack there prompted retaliatory strikes by Western powers on the Syrian government's chemical facilities.

The site visit confirmed by the Organization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons, will allow the agency to proceed with an independent investigation to determine what chemicals, if any, were used in the April 7 attack that killed more than 40 people.

The OPCW mission is not mandated to apportion blame.

President Bashar Assad has escalated his military campaign to retake all remaining enclaves in the capital and surrounding areas. The ISIS-held areas in southern Damascus are the last holdouts.

Meanwhile, rebels have begun evacuating three towns in the eastern Qalamoun region in the Damascus countryside.

Al-Ikhbariya TV said that 35 buses left the towns of Ruhaiba, Jayroud, and al-Nasriya on Saturday carrying hundreds of rebels and their families to opposition-held territory in northern Syria. The station said the evacuations

was the final target of the government's sweeping campaign to seize back control of eastern Ghouta from rebels after the alleged chemical attack. The Syrian government and its ally, Russia, denied responsibility for the suspected chemical attack.



SANA/AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, smoke rises Sunday after Syrian government air-strikes and shelling hit the Hajar al-Aswad neighborhood held by Islamic State militants in southern Damascus, Syria.

would continue for three days.

On Sunday, Sweden's ambassador to the United Nations said he and other Security Council envoys had agreed to work on a "meaningful mechanism" to determine who was behind the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria. Olof Skoog spoke in southern Sweden after an annual, informal working meeting with the U.N. Security Council ambassadors.

The meeting comes just a week after the U.S., France and Britain bombed suspected Syrian chemical weapons facilities, after accusing Assad's government of being behind the attack in Douma.

Iraq: Strikes killed 36 militants

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A spokesman for Iraq's military said 36 Islamic State militants were killed in Thursday's airstrikes by Iraq's air force in Syria.

In a statement issued Sunday, Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool said the airstrikes hit a location where ISIS militants were meeting, among other targets. Rasool added that six ISIS leaders were among the dead.

Hours after launching the air-

strikes, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's office said Iraqi fighter jets had hit ISIS positions in an area along the border, saying they posed a threat to Iraq.

Syrian and Iraqi forces have driven ISIS from nearly all the territory it once held, but the extremists have maintained a presence in the remote desert areas along the border.

Iraq has previously carried out airstrikes against the group in Syria.

NATION

Man opens fire at Waffle House in Nashville, killing 4

BY KRISTINE PHILLIPS
The Washington Post

Police are looking for a man who they said opened fire at a Waffle House restaurant near Nashville early Sunday morning, killing four and injuring several.

The man arrived at the restaurant just before 3:30 a.m. and shot two people outside with a rifle, killing them, Metro Nashville Police Department spokesman Don Aaron told reporters. The man then went inside and fired several more shots, killing a third person, Aaron said.

Police later identified the suspect as Travis Reinking, 29.

At one point, Aaron said, a customer saw the gunman struggling with the rifle and wrestled the weapon away from the suspect and tossed it across the counter. The shooter ran away, taking off a green jacket a short distance from the restaurant and apparently walking made in the area.

Police said a man believed to be Reinking was last seen in a wooded area near an apartment complex less than a mile from the Waffle House. He was seen wearing black pants and no shirt.

A total of six people were shot,



METRO NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

The Metro Nashville Police Department is searching for Travis Reinking in connection with a fatal shooting at a Waffle House in Nashville early Sunday.

Aaron said. One of them — the fourth fatality — later died at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Two others remain in critical condition at the medical center, hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Wetzel said.

Southern Hills Medical Center treated two other people associated with the shooting for minor injuries, and they have been



GEORGE WALKER IV, THE (NASHVILLE) TENNESSEAN/AP

Bullet holes are seen at a Nashville Waffle House where the fatal shooting occurred.

released.

Police initially identified Reinking, of Morton, Ill., as a person of interest, but Aaron told reporters witnesses' description of the gunman matched Reinking's picture.

"No warrants have been issued, but I think it's safe to say that person of interest and suspect in this matter is synonymous," he said.

Police have not detailed a motive for the shooting. Investigators also do not know why the suspect was in the Nashville area, more than 400 miles from his hometown, or whether he has local ties. Aaron told reporters that investigators have reached out to Illinois law enforcement and have since learned

that Reinking had been "known to associate with firearms."

Police don't believe Reinking is still armed, though they're not ruling out that possibility.

Aaron said he did not have information yet on the identities of the victims or whether they were customers or employees.

Police shared a photo of the weapon, an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle, which shows the gun with its safety off.

Witness Chuck Cordero told the Tennessean the gunman arrived and immediately began shooting.

"He did not say anything," Cordero, 50, said. "He pulled up, got out of his car and was all

business."

He said the man who wrestled the rifle from the shooter saved lives. "Had that guy had a chance to reload his weapon, there was plenty more people in that restaurant."

Nashville Mayor David Briley said in a tweet Sunday that it was a tragic day for the city "anytime people lose their lives at the hands of a gunman."

"My heart goes out to the families & friends of every person who was killed or wounded in this morning's shooting. I know all of their lives will be forever changed by this devastating crime," he said.

Fraternity expelled from Syracuse over racist video

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse University announced Saturday that it has permanently expelled a fraternity over an offensive video that fraternity members say was intended as satire.

Chancellor Kent Syverud called the Theta Tau video "racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, ableist and sexist" in a video posted on the university's website.

He said disciplinary actions against the individual students involved could include suspension or expulsion.

The video showed a group of men laughing uproariously at performances punctuated by racist language against blacks, Jews and Latinos, and simulated sex acts. Some students contend the video illustrates larger issues of racism and sexism at the university.

The Syracuse chapter of Theta Tau, a national engineering fraternity, apologized for the video Friday and says its members believe racism "has no place on a university campus."

"Each semester our new members are given the opportunity to write and act out a skit in order to roast the active brothers," the Theta Tau chapter said on its website. "This

The video showed a group of men laughing at performances punctuated by racist language against blacks, Jews and Latinos.

event was never intended to be centered around racism or hate. This year, one of these brothers is a conservative Republican, and the new members roasted him by playing the part of a racist conservative character.

"It was a satirical sketch of an uneducated, racist, homophobic, misogynist, sexist, ableist and intolerant person," the statement said. "The young man playing the part of this character nor the young man being roasted do not hold any of the horrible views espoused as a part of that sketch."

Syverud said that in addition to expelling the Theta Tau chapter, university officials "have begun a top-to-bottom review of our entire Greek system."



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NATION

EPA head, lobbyist he rented from had meeting

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt met in his office last year with a veteran Washington lobbyist tied to the bargain-priced condo where Pruitt was living.

Both Pruitt and lobbyist Steven Hart had previously denied Hart had conducted any recent business with EPA.

A spokesman for Hart confirmed Saturday that the lobbyist met with Pruitt at EPA headquarters in July 2017 to discuss efforts to preserve the Chesapeake Bay.

The admission about the meeting came after the lobbying firm Williams & Jensen filed a new disclosure report late Friday hours after Hart announced his early retirement as chairman. The firm's filing, first reported by The Hill, says Hart lobbied the EPA during the first quarter of 2018 on behalf of Smithfield Foods.

The world's largest pork producer, Smithfield has been involved in efforts to clean up the bay since the EPA fined the company \$12.6 million in 1997 for dumping hog waste into a tributary.

Pruitt's connections to the prominent lobbyist have been under intense scrutiny since last month, when media reports first revealed that the EPA chief had rented a luxury Capitol Hill condo to a company co-owned by Hart's wife for just \$50 a night. Pruitt's daughter, then a White House summer intern, also stayed at the condo.

On Pruitt's 2017 condo lease, a copy of which was reviewed

by The Associated Press, Steven Hart's name was originally typed in as "landlord" but was scratched out. The name of his wife, health care lobbyist Vicki Hart, was scribbled in.

Pruitt's public calendar shows he met at EPA headquarters on July 11 with the Smithfield Foundation, the pork producer's philanthropic arm.

Pruitt's calendar does not disclose any 2018 meetings with Smithfield or its affiliates, the period covered by the report filed by Williams & Jensen.

Lobbying disclosures show Williams & Jensen has represented Smithfield for more than a decade, with Hart intermittently reported as working directly on the pork producer's behalf.

Pruitt denied in an interview with Fox News earlier this month that there was anything improper with his rental of the condo from Hart's wife.

Hart also denied having any meaningful recent contacts with the EPA chief.

Campaign finance records show Hart hosted a 2014 fundraiser for Pruitt's state re-election effort where more than three dozen executives from Oklahoma electricity provider OGE Energy Corp. cut checks, even though he was running unopposed.

Records show that once Pruitt arrived at the EPA last year, he met with a lobbyist from Hart's firm and two executives from OGE Energy, which was then seeking to scuttle tighter pollution standards for coal-fired power plants.

Romney faces challenge in GOP primary for Senate seat

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
AND JULIAN HATTEM
Associated Press

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah

— Mitt Romney was forced into a Republican primary in his bid for U.S. Senate in Utah after losing a nomination battle Saturday at the state's GOP convention.

Romney remains the heavy favorite overall to replace Sen. Orrin Hatch in November and said he was ready to keep campaigning hard.

If he had won the party delegate vote at the convention, he would have bypassed a primary altogether. Instead, he was edged out by state lawmaker Mike Kennedy, who got 51 percent of the vote to Romney's 49 percent.

GOP voters will decide between the two in a June 26 primary.

Romney previously secured his spot on the primary ballot by gathering 28,000 voter signatures but Saturday that choice was partly to blame for his loss.

Gathering signatures to make the ballot is unpopular among many conservative delegates in the state who say it dilutes their ability to choose a candidate.

Romney, 71, went up against 11 other candidates at the con-

vention, including one dressed as Abraham Lincoln. Some candidates questioned Romney's past criticism of President Donald Trump.

Kennedy, a doctor and lawyer, framed himself as an underdog taking on the "Romney machine." At one point, he pitched in to sweep up tiny paper American flags that had been shot from a confetti cannon hours before.

Romney was governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007. While in office, he signed legislation that greatly expanded access to health care through state-level subsidies and individual mandates to purchase insurance, much like the Affordable Care Act.

After his failed 2012 presidential campaign, Romney moved to Utah, where he gained popularity after running as the first Mormon presidential nominee of a major political party.

He's worked to keep the focus on the issues rather than his history of well-documented feuds with Trump, whom he called a "con man" and a phony during the 2016 race. Romney has accepted Trump's endorsement for Senate. But Romney said Saturday he hasn't decided if he'll endorse Trump's re-election bid.



Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, followed by former first lady Laura Bush, follow pallbearers carrying former first lady Barbara Bush's casket after a funeral service in Houston.

Amid laughter and tears, Barbara Bush is laid to rest

By JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Barbara Bush was remembered as the "first lady of the Greatest Generation" during a funeral Saturday attended by four former U.S. presidents and hundreds of other people who filled a Houston church with as much laughter as tears, with many recalling her quick wit and devotion to family.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush joked that his mother called her style of raising him and his siblings — "a benevolent dictatorship" — but honestly, it wasn't always benevolent. "She was widely admired for her plainspoken style during her husband, George H.W. Bush's, presidency and was known as 'The Enforcer' in her family."

Jeb Bush said he could feel her presence Saturday inside the church and that she would likely have given him advice: "Jeb, keep it short. Don't drag this out," he said to chuckles. He met her expectations with a speech lasting about seven minutes.

He choked up at one point while addressing the roughly 1,500 people inside St. Martin's Episcopal Church, where his parents regularly worshipped, when saying his mother — known for her self-deprecating remarks about her wrinkles and white-gray hair — was "beautiful" until the end.

His father, a prolific writer of love letters to his wife, laughed when his son read a letter from their wedding anniversary in 1994. It began: "Will you marry me? Oops! I forgot we did that, 49 years ago." But when his son continued reading about how his father grew happier each year spent with his wife, his father closed his eyes and cried.

Presidential historian Jon Meacham, who wrote a 2015 biography on the former president, recalled during his eulogy Bar-



Leah Martin and her daughter, Jenny Mulvey, wait for the motorcade carrying former first lady Barbara Bush on Saturday.

bara Bush's devotion to her husband of 73 years, noting he was the "only boy she ever kissed." Theirs was the longest marriage of any presidential couple.

Meacham said Barbara Bush was also known for bringing awareness to AIDS patients and for her work promoting literacy, which her husband honored Saturday by wearing socks printed with blue, red and yellow books.

"Barbara Bush was the first lady of the Greatest Generation," Meacham said, a nod to the generation that fought in World War II.

The couple's family, including their five children, 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, played prominent roles in the service. Granddaughters offered readings, some of their voices shaky with emotion, while the couple's eight grandsons were pallbearers.

The Bush family was seated in front of the church. Nearby, two other former presidents — Bill Clinton and Barack Obama — along with their wives and current first lady Melania Trump were seated in the same pew.

As the funeral ended, George H.W. Bush was pushed in his

wheelchair by another son, former President George W. Bush, as they followed the casket out of the church's cavernous sanctuary.

They stopped along the way to shake hands as mourners sang "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," which Barbara Bush had requested as the final song. She died Tuesday, with her husband by her side, at their home in Houston. She was 92.

Barbara Bush was buried Saturday afternoon at her husband's presidential library at Texas A&M University in College Station. The burial site is in a gated plot surrounded by trees and near a creek where the couple's daughter Robin, 3, is buried. She died of leukemia in 1953.

Hundreds of people lined both sides of the street near the campus as the funeral procession passed on a gray, cloudy day. Flags were flown at half-staff.

Other guests at the invitation-only funeral included former Rep. Gabby Giffords and her husband, retired astronaut Karl Kelly, and professional golfer Phil Mickelson, along with Karl Rove and other former White House staff members.

NATION

Authorities call Fla. deputy killings 'inexplicable'

BY JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

TRENTON, Fla. — Investigators in Florida say they may never know why a man — a recluse from a rural farm community who rarely ventured into town — killed two sheriff's deputies while they sat in a Chinese restaurant.

John Hubert Highnote, 58, of Bell, casually walked into the restaurant, went up to the Gilchrist County deputies and fired at him. He then went into his car and killed himself.

"It's inexplicable," State Attorney Bill Cervone said. "People will want to know why, and we may never have an answer for them."

Highnote came from a small town just up the road from the Ace China restaurant in Trenton, about 35 miles west of Gainesville. He lived alone in a small, brick house off a dirt road shaded under a canopy of trees.

A neighbor who has lived across the street for five years said that Highnote never once introduced himself, and he was rarely seen in town. The only time she ever

saw him was when he would drive his truck into the garage.

"I'd see him pull in, shut the garage and go in. No lights on or nothing," said the neighbor, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she did not want to be involved in the investigation. She characterized him as a recluse.

Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz blamed the deaths of Sgt. Noel Ramirez, 30, and Deputy Taylor Lindsey, 25, on hatred toward law enforcement.

"What do you expect happens when you demonize law enforcement to the extent it's been demonized? Every type of hate, every type of put-down you can think of," Schultz said at a news conference.

"The only thing these men were guilty of is wanting to protect you and me. They just wanted to get something to eat, and they just wanted to do their job," he said.

President Donald Trump called the slain deputies "HEROES" in a tweet sharing



Ramirez



Lindsey

his condolences with their friends, families and colleagues.

Highnote bought his house in Bell in 2010, property records show. He'd had one traffic ticket in Gilchrist County over the past eight years, according to the county clerk of court.

Prior to moving to Bell, records show that Highnote lived in St. Petersburg where he had more run-ins with law enforcement over previous decades.

He was arrested for felony carrying a concealed firearm in 1978, a charge later dropped after he successfully completed a pre-trial intervention, Pinellas County court records show.

Highnote was also arrested for misdemeanor criminal mischief in 1994, for which he also did a pretrial diversion program and the charges were dropped. The records had no further information about the mischief for which he was arrested.

He was also cited for consuming alcohol

in public in 1977 and had 11 traffic tickets for speeding and other infractions over the years.

Schultz said state law enforcement officials are investigating and an investigator from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement was at Highnote's house on Friday.

"Sgt. Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey were the best of the best," Schultz said. "They were men of integrity, men of loyalty."

"They were God-fearing, and they loved what they did, and we are very proud of them."

Schultz said he rushed to the scene, and then had the difficult task of calling the families of Ramirez, who is survived by his wife and two young children, and Lindsey, who joined the sheriff's office in 2013.

Jamie Mauldin, a waitress at Atkins Bar-B-Q about a mile from Highnote's house in Bell said the town is devastated by the loss of the two deputies. She wore a freshly made T-shirt that said "Gilchrist Strong." The proceeds of the shirts will go to the deputies' families.

"Ramirez was the sweetest ever. He loved his family. Loved his job," she said. "Always had a smile."

Police: Teen murder suspect had relationship with victim

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Investigators have learned there was a romantic relationship between a 16-year-old boy and the 17-year-old boy he is suspected of fatally stabbing in suburban Los Angeles, authorities say.

Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Nicole Nishida confirmed the relationship Friday. The two teens had previously been described as very good friends.

Jeremy Sanchez, 17, was found dead Wednesday afternoon in a riverbed in South El Monte, about 13 miles from downtown Los Angeles, investigators said.

The teen's father assembled a group of the boy's close friends to search for him after he didn't show up for school Wednesday. The suspect and another friend found Sanchez's body Wednesday afternoon.

"The person who killed him is the one who said, 'Look, there he is,'" sheriff's homicide Lt. John Corina said.

Investigators believe the teenage suspect, whose name hasn't been released because of his age, stabbed Sanchez multiple times and left his body in the wooded area. Detectives are still trying to pin down a motive for the killing but said the two were "very good friends."

Sanchez's cousin, Brifana Amigon, said in a post on GoFundMe that he loved playing sports, was on his high school's varsity football team and was on the wrestling team.

"We have no words to describe the grief that their family is experiencing right now," she wrote. Edward Zuniga, the superintendent of the El Monte Union High



RAY CASTELLANOS/AP

High school wrestler Jeremy Sanchez competed in the California Interscholastic Federation championship in Santa Ana, Calif., in 2016.

School District, said Sanchez was a popular student athlete and that school officials are still in shock over his death. The school district is offering grief counseling to other students, he said.

"Jeremy was a very respectful kid, very outgoing and always had a smile on his face," his wrestling coach, Ray Castellanos, said after visiting a makeshift memorial set up at the riverbed where he was killed. "I'm devastated. It's not supposed to be this way."

The teenage suspect was arrested early Thursday morning when detectives grew wary of his story after hearing conflicting statements during interviews, Corina said. "Some things didn't add up," he said.

Corina said it was disturbing and out of the ordinary for the suspect to be involved in the search of the friend he allegedly killed.

"This person kills his friend



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Wrestling coach Ray Castellanos, right, and assistant coach Monique Cabrera, center, stand next to a makeshift memorial marking the site where Sanchez, 17, was fatally stabbed.

and then acts like, 'Oh, I'll go out and try to find him,'" Corina said. "It is almost like he was trying to throw everyone off."

Detectives obtained a search warrant and raided the teenager's home early Thursday. They found evidence that was "very helpful" to the investigation, Corina said. He declined to elaborate on the evidence in the case but said it was enough for detectives to book the suspect on a murder charge.

Castellanos, who had also coached the teenager's father, said Sanchez was a top athlete

on the high school's varsity wrestling team but that he was also dedicated to his schoolwork. He visited the boy's home on Thursday and said Sanchez's father shed tears as they hugged for several minutes.

Recalling their last exchange, Castellanos told the teenager not to eat junk food because he wanted him to stay a star athlete.

"He said 'I'm going to be a champion, coach,'" Castellanos said. "Now he'll teach the angels in heaven to wrestle."

Statue for firefighters killed in fire unveiled

Associated Press

PHOENIX — A life-sized statue was unveiled Saturday honoring 19 members of a firefighting team known as the Granite Mountain Hotshots.

The statue was dedicated at a state memorial park established where all but one member of the team died in a canyon near Yarnell on June 30, 2013.

Matt Glenn, of Provo, Utah-based Big Statues, said the "Returning the Favor" television show hosted by Mike Rowe commissioned his team to make the bronze sculpture for the Wildland Firefighter Guardian Institute.

The institute, founded by survivors of two of the Hotshots, will formally turn over the statue to the state during a May ceremony at the park, 66 miles northwest of Phoenix.

The statue is at the parking area where visitors can take a 3.5-mile trail to the site where the firefighters were trapped in a brush-choked canyon after shifting winds changed the direction of a lightning-sparked fire that burned 127 homes in Yarnell and two nearby communities.

The sole survivor of the team was a member stationed elsewhere as a lookout.

The statue is mounted on a pedestal with the names of the 19 firefighters and depicts a firefighter with a chain saw and other gear as he sizes up a wildfire, Glenn said during a telephone interview.

The design includes facial features of multiple fallen members of the Hotshots, Glenn said.

NATION

Broadway marks Earth Day by going car-free for 2 miles

By VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It was a bold New York experiment: closing Broadway to traffic for two Manhattan miles.

On Saturday, 30 blocks of Broadway was open only to pedestrians and anything on two wheels but no motor, from Times Square down to Union Square.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., city officials invited pedestrians and cyclists to join the fun, food and games marking global Earth Day, which was Sunday.

A part of New York normally filled with car fumes and noise

was alive with artistic performances mixed with fitness classes and educational activities about a sustainable, healthy environment.

"We've been waiting for spring and I looked at the weather, so I started looking up things to do and found out that City Bike was free today," said Stephanie Alexander, referring to the city's bike-sharing program, which offered free passes for the day. "So I rode down from the Upper East Side, at least seven miles."

She said even a day of not using cars or burning fuel "might be a good thing for the city."

For the third time in as many

years, the city made Broadway car-free — this time for a stretch longer than ever. Each point along the way was dedicated to different themes. Music and dancing filled the pedestrian plazas of Times Square, and the Garment District offered arts and crafts workshops, plus a science photo exhibition. Free Rollerblade rentals got some people to the day's finale in Union Square.

In addition to car-free Broadway, the city closed down parts of St. Nicholas Avenue in Harlem, Montague Street in Brooklyn, Shore Boulevard and Woodside Avenue in Queens, and Eagle Avenue in the Bronx.

Ariz. teachers vote to walk out

By MELISSA DANIELS
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona teachers have voted to walk off the job to demand increased school funding, marking a key step toward a first statewide strike that builds on a movement for higher pay in other Republican-dominated states.

A grass-roots group and the state's largest teacher membership group said that teachers will walk out Thursday.

Arizona jumped into a movement for higher teacher pay that started in West Virginia, where a strike garnered a raise, and spread to Oklahoma, Kentucky and most recently Colorado.

Last week's vote followed weeks of protests in Arizona and an offer from Republican Gov. Doug Ducey to give teachers a 20 percent raise by 2020. Many teachers kept up the pressure at schools and on social media, saying the plan failed to address much-needed funding for classrooms and support staff.

The historic vote was announced at a press conference at the Arizona Education Association headquarters.

Around 76 percent of the 57,000 teachers voted in favor of the walkout, according to Joe Thomas, president of Arizona Education Association.

"This is undeniably, clearly, a mandate for action," Thomas said.

Ducey's proposal drew support from the business community and some school organizations, but others were concerned about finding the money.



MATT YORK/AP

Teachers Cassi Igo and Andrew Brothers cast their ballots outside Paseo Verde Elementary last week in Peoria, Ariz.

The plan would cost about \$650 million when fully implemented.

Legislative budget analysts predicted a \$265 million deficit in 2020 if the governor's plan is approved. Ducey's office strongly disputes that analysis, saying much of the funding comes from revenue increases.

Teachers could face consequences in this right-to-work state, where unions do not collectively bargain with school districts and representation is not mandatory. The Arizona Education Association has warned its 20,000 members about a 1971 Arizona attorney general opinion saying a statewide strike would be illegal under common law and participants could lose their teaching credentials.



JAY REEVES/AP

Josephine Bolling McCall poses with a photo of her father, lynching victim Emma Bolling, at her home in Montgomery, Ala.

Memorial documents racial inequality in US

By JAY REEVES
AND KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Elmore Bolling defied the odds against black men and built several successful businesses during the harsh era of Jim Crow segregation in the South. He had more money than a lot of whites, which his descendants believe was all it took to get him lynched in 1947.

He was shot to death by a white neighbor, according to news accounts at the time, and the shooter was never prosecuted.

But Bolling's name is now listed among thousands on a new memorial for victims of hate-inspired lynchings that terrorized generations of U.S. blacks. Daughter Josephine Bolling McCall is anxious to see the monument, located about 20 miles from where her father was killed in rural Lowndes County.

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, opening Thursday, is a project of the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative, a legal advocacy group in Montgomery. The organization said the combined museum and memorial will be the nation's first site to document racial inequality in America from slavery through Jim Crow to the issues of today.

"In the American South, we don't talk about slavery. We don't have monuments and memorials that confront the legacy of lynch-

ing. We haven't really confronted the difficulties of segregation. And because of that, I think we are still burdened by that history," said EJI executive director Bryan Stevenson.

The site includes a memorial to the victims of 4,400 "terror lynchings" of black people in 800 U.S. counties from 1877 through 1950. All but about 300 were in the South, and prosecutions were rare in any of the cases. Stevenson said they emphasized the lynching era because he believes it's an aspect of the nation's racial history that's discussed the least.

McCall, 75, plans to view the memorial with her five living siblings. She said they suffered more than she did, since she was only 5 when their father was slain.

A newspaper account from the time said the Bolling, 39, was shot seven times on a road near his store by a white man, Clarke Luckie, who claimed Bolling had insulted his wife during a phone call.

McCall, who researched the slaying extensively for a book about her father, said it's more likely that Luckie, a stockyard employee, resented her father, who had thousands of dollars in the bank, three tractor-trailer rigs and employed about 40 people.

"He was jealous and he filled him with bullets," she said.

Luckie was arrested, but a grand jury issued no indictment and no one was ever prosecuted.

Verne Troyer, known as 'Mini-Me' in 'Austin Powers' films, dies at 49

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Verne Troyer, who played Dr. Evil's small, silent sidekick "Mini-Me" in the "Austin Powers" movie franchise, has died. He was 49.

A statement provided by Troyer's representatives that was also posted to his Instagram and Facebook accounts said the actor died Saturday.

No cause of death was given, but the statement describes Troyer as a "fighter" who was unable to overcome a recent bout of ad-



Troyer

versity then goes on to discuss depression and suicide.

"Over the years he's struggled and won, struggled and won, struggled and won, struggled

and fought some more, but unfortunately this time was too much," the statement said.

"Depression and suicide are very serious issues. You never

know what kind of battle someone is going through inside. Be kind to one another. And always know, it's never too late to reach out to someone for help."

Troyer became a celebrity and pop-culture phenomenon after starring alongside Mike Myers as "Mini-Me," the tiny, hairless clone of villain Dr. Evil in two of the three "Austin Powers" films.

"Verne was the consummate professional and a beacon of positivity for those of us who had the honor of working with him," Myers said in a statement. "It is a sad day, but I hope he is in a better

place. He will be greatly missed."

Troyer appeared in 1999's "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" and 2002's "Austin Powers in Goldmember," in which "Mini-Me" switches sides and becomes a miniature version of Powers. Both hero and villain were played by Myers, who also put Troyer in his 2008 film "The Love Guru."

He also played the banker goblin Griphook in 2001's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and appeared on dozens of TV shows including "Boston Public," "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" and "MADtv."

Troyer was born in 1969 in Sturgis, Mich., with achondroplasia, a genetic condition that kept him less than 3 feet tall.

"Even though his stature was small and his parents often wondered if he'd be able to reach up and open doors on his own in life, he went on to open more doors for himself and others than anyone could have imagined," the statement said.

"He inspired people around the world with his drive, determination, and attitude ... He also touched more people's hearts than he will ever know."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

For the troops

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WORLD



COURTESY OF DENIS SURFYS/AP

Authorities evacuated tourists and others from the Mont Saint-Michel abbey and monument on France's northern coast Sunday after a visitor apparently threatened an attack on security services.

Tourists at French abbey evacuated after a threat

By SHEILA NORMAN-CULP
AND ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL, France — French authorities evacuated tourists from the Mont-Saint-Michel abbey and searched houses Sunday on the famed outcropping in the English Channel for a visitor who apparently threatened to attack security services.

The exceptional evacuation of one of France's most visited tourist sites came after a string of sporadic attacks around France in recent years targeting police, some of them fatal.

The site reopened Sunday afternoon, and a trickle of tourists started returning to the Mont across a promontory that connects it to the mainland. Several hours of searching failed to turn up the suspect, and police expanded their search to neighboring towns, according to the national gendarme service.

Details of Sunday's threat were unclear, but the gendarme service said authorities ordered the evacuation as a precaution.

During the police operation, an Associated Press reporter at the scene saw at least three police helicopters circling over the peninsula, notably famous for being isolated by high tides. The hilltop abbey, whose origins date to the 10th century, and surrounding sites attract more than 2 million visitors every year.

Police officers patrolled the steep cobblestone paths leading up to the abbey, packed with restaurants and souvenir shops — and normally packed with tourists and pilgrims 365 days a year.

Thousands of people were affected by the evacuation, but the mood was calm. Some tourists were taken out of their hotels while others were blocked upon arrival.

Some angry South Korean tourists shouted at an organizer trying to explain the situation. Their group of 32 was turned back to Paris after being blocked from reaching Mont-Saint-Michel.

Tour guide Andrew Rui remained calm, however, noting that the evacuation was prompted by security reasons.

"We cannot control the situation so we accept this phenomenon," he told the AP.

The regional prosecutor's office opened an investigation into the threat amid contradictory information about what happened. An official with the national gendarme service said the man made the threat Sunday on one of the shuttles serving the site.

The head of the regional administration, Jean-Marc Sabahte, told broadcaster Franceinfo that the man made the threat when he was trying to stage a street performance and got in an argument with a cafe worker. He said the man was caught on video surveillance cameras.

Mexico, EU reach trade agreement deal

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico and the European Union reached a deal to update their nearly 20-year-old free trade agreement Saturday, including the elimination of tariffs on a number of Mexican agricultural products.

President Enrique Peña Nieto, who arrived in Hannover, Germany, in the afternoon to begin a

five-day tour of three European nations, said via Twitter that the "agreement in principle" was struck in Brussels.

The announcement comes amid uncertainty for both Mexican and European commercial ties with the United States under the presidency of Donald Trump, who has espoused a more protectionist stance on trade.

A joint statement from Mexico's

Foreign Relations and Economy departments said that under the agreement with the EU, tariffs will be scrapped on Mexican orange juice, tuna, honey, agave syrup, fruits and vegetables, among other products.

Also addressed in the deal are services, telecommunications, technology, rules for protecting investments and a mechanism for dispute resolution.

Freeze: Some skeptical about North's declaration

FROM FRONT PAGE

And there was no mention of plans to cut its nuclear arsenal.

Satellite images suggest the mountainous Punggye-ri nuclear test site, where the North has conducted all six underground blasts since 2006, is already on the verge of collapse.

Kim pointed to his country's "miraculous victory" in developing nuclear weapons and said it was time to shift to economic development.

That was underscored by a resolution adopted by the central committee of the ruling Workers' Party on Friday promising not to use nuclear weapons unless faced with a nuclear threat or provocations itself.

"It's not a shift in policy at all," said Duyeon Kim, a senior visiting fellow with the Seoul-based Korean Peninsula Future Forum. "It's also basically reassuring that they're a nuclear power."

She said it was more likely a public relations play aimed at showing the regime is willing to compromise as it prepares to seek concessions in the upcoming talks.

"It's all part of his plan ... to try and wow Washington and the world and weaken Washington's demands before the summit," she said. "The North is going to play a tough negotiating hand with a lot of tricks and traps to try to get away with keeping its nuclear weapons."

Cautious welcome

Trump, Moon and the leaders of China and Japan welcomed the North's statement as a positive signal after weeks of official silence on the upcoming meetings.

The U.S. president called the North's announcement "very good news" and said in a pair of tweets "progress being made for all."

But some Trump aides privately expressed skepticism about the North's declaration, according to The Washington Post. It quoted them as saying Kim may be trying to offer relatively modest promises that could be easily reversed to show himself as a reasonable negotiating partner.

The U.S. administration has long insisted that it will maintain its "maximum pressure" campaign of tough economic sanctions and other diplomatic measures until the North agrees to abandon its nuclear weapons.

North Korea, which has been ruled by the Kim family dynasty since it was founded in 1948, has a track record of breaking promises in past negotiations over its nuclear ambitions.

The Clinton administration reached the so-called "Agreed Framework" with the North in 1994. The North halted construction of two reactors believed to be for nuclear weapons production in return for two alternative nuclear power reactors that could be used for electricity and shipments of fuel oil.

But the deal collapsed after U.S. officials alleged the North

was conducting a clandestine uranium enrichment program and newly elected President George W. Bush labeled the North part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Subsequent six-party talks that included the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia also failed when Pyongyang refused to accept U.S.-proposed verification methods.

Shortly after taking power, Kim reached a wide-ranging deal with the Obama administration in 2012 to suspend tests of nuclear weapons and missile tests as well as uranium enrichment.

He also agreed to allow international inspectors to monitor the country's nuclear activities in exchange for food aid.

The U.S. ended that arrangement after the North launched a long-range rocket it claimed was for delivering satellites.

Diplomacy restarted

South Korea has held working-level talks with the North since the communist state agreed to join the Olympics, setting off the current whirlwind of diplomacy.

Moon said the North has agreed to discuss denuclearization without preconditions, including the long-standing demand that U.S. remove troops from the divided peninsula.

Moon also has welcomed the opportunity for improved relations with the North and raised the prospect of bringing an end to signing a formal peace treaty to replace the armistice.

Kim didn't mention either item in the state-run media report about his remarks.

Analysts say that at the very least the engagement has tamped down fears of a nuclear war after months of saber rattling that saw Trump call Kim "little rocket man" and threaten to "totally destroy" North Korea if forced to defend the U.S. and its allies.

There could be more modest gains even if the sides fail to reach an agreement on denuclearization.

The two Koreas could agree to restore tourism and economic exchanges, and to allow more reunions of families left divided after the peninsula was split in two.

The U.S. also is pressing for the release of three Americans who have been detained in the North.

"The administration needs to start sweating the details on how it'll take what Kim's given up here and turn it into a winner of a deal — one with some degree of verifiability," security analyst Ankit Panda wrote in an article published in the Daily Beast.

"If Trump shows up to a meeting with Kim, he's given up here and turn it into a winner of a deal — one with some degree of verifiability," security analyst Ankit Panda wrote in an article published in the Daily Beast.

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WORLD



ANDREW PARSONS/AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is surrounded by members of the royal family at a concert celebrating her 92nd birthday.

Queen Elizabeth celebrates birthday with pop concert

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — The audience at Royal Albert Hall got a rare treat Saturday — the chance to sing “Happy Birthday” to the longest reigning monarch in U.K. history.

Queen Elizabeth II, with her eldest son, Prince Charles, at her side, waved to the crowd as they celebrated her 92nd birthday.

Charles got an enthusiastic response when he introduced her as “Your majesty, mummy.”

The queen took center stage after a pop concert featuring British singers Sting, Tom Jones and Jamie Cullum along with Australian star Kylie Minogue.

Shaggy and Craig David also performed, and the festivities took a long stroll down memory lane, with audio from a speech Elizabeth made on her 21st birthday and video from her Golden Jubilee.

She was flanked in the royal box by Charles, heir to the throne, and Prince William, next in the line of succession.

Prince Harry and fiancée Meghan Markle also attended,

generating a roar of applause when they took their seats. The couple will wed May 19 at Windsor Castle.

Prince William's wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, did not attend. She is expecting the couple's third child.

The queen's husband, Prince Philip, was also missing. He is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

The show featured contemporary tunes, but included songs from earlier eras, including selections from “My Fair Lady” — one of the queen's favorites — and a sentimental rendering of “Wonderful World.”

Earlier in the day, honorary gun salutes were staged at Hyde Park, the Tower of London, a castle in Wales and the town of Windsor to mark the occasion.

The queen celebrates two birthdays every year: her actual birthday on April 21, which she usually marks privately with her family, and her “official birthday” in the summer. That usually falls on the second Saturday in June, when she joins the Trooping the Color military parade in central London.

India institutes death penalty for rape of young children

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India's government on Saturday prescribed the death penalty for people convicted of raping children under 12 to help combat an increase in violent crime against women.

An ordinance was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet and was being sent to the president for approval, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The ordinance will require the approval of Parliament within six months in order to become law. In the meantime, suspects can be prosecuted using the ordinance.

The move follows widespread outrage over the recent rape and killing of an 8-year-old girl in India's Jammu-Kashmir state, the alleged rape of a girl by a ruling party lawmaker in Uttar Pradesh

state and several other rape cases involving girls in the country.

Many protesters expressed particular anger at India's ruling Hindu nationalist party for initially siding with the accused in the Kashmir case. The young victim was a Muslim and the accused are Hindus.

A total of at least nine suspects, including a lawmaker from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and four police officials, have been arrested in the two cases reported recently from Jammu-Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh states.

Violent crime against women has been on the rise in India despite tough laws enacted in 2013. In 2012, the fatal gang rape of a young woman in New Delhi triggered massive protests by hundreds of thousands to demand stricter rape laws in the country.

Iran detains ex-prosecutor convicted in torture case

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian police arrested a former prosecutor known as the “torturer of Tehran,” who faces a two-year prison sentence over the death of prisoners following 2009 protests, Iranian media reported Sunday.

The official website of the judiciary, Mizanonline.com, said former Tehran prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi had been arrested. The semi-official Tasnim news agency said police detained Mortazavi in a villa in northern Iran, near the Caspian Sea.

Mortazavi was sentenced to prison by an appeals court in December. That court found him

guilty of “abetting and aiding” torture and the deaths of protesters arrested after the disputed re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Since that court decision, Mortazavi apparently couldn't be found by authorities.

After the reports of his disappearance, wanted posters printed by activists began appearing around Tehran.

Mortazavi's wife and his lawyer denied he was missing, but said he was looking to appeal the ruling. His lawyer could not be immediately reached Sunday.

Canada has blamed Mortazavi for the death in custody of Iranian-Canadian photojournalist

Zahra Kazemi in 2003. Iranian reformists accused Mortazavi of trying to stage a cover-up because it was he who reported that Kazemi died of a stroke.

A government committee probing her death later found that she had died of a fractured skull and brain hemorrhage from a blow to the head. No charges were filed against Mortazavi.

He is detested by those pushing for social and political reforms. Critics have dubbed him the “butcher of the press” and the “torturer of Tehran” because he was behind the closure of some 120 newspapers and the jailing of many journalists and political activists over the past decade.



ALFREDO ZUNIGA/AP

An anti-government protester in Managua, Nicaragua, on Saturday holds up a sign reading “Nicaragua free” at the Jean Paul Jennie round-about where protesters pulled down a statue that is emblematic of the government of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Journalist shot during Facebook Live report on unrest in Nicaragua

By PETER ORSI
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — In the rainy, nighttime video, journalist Angel Gahona, clad in jeans and a blue shirt, holds up a cellphone and narrates as he approaches the facade of city hall in Bluefields, Nicaragua, reporting live via Facebook on protests that have rocked the Central American nation for four days.

Seconds later a gunshot rings out, and Gahona slumps lifeless to the curb. Another Bluefields reporter, Ileana Lacayo, confirms that he died before reaching the hospital.

Besides Gahona at least 25 others have been killed since Wednesday in unrest over social security reforms planned by President Daniel Ortega's government, according to a human rights group. Dozens more have been injured or arrested.

Ortega said Saturday in his first public appearance since the demonstrations began that his government is willing to enter into talks over the dispute.

But he said the dialogue would be just with business leaders and not with other sectors of society. He also seemed to try to justify what has been a heavy-handed response by the government and allied groups, accusing demonstrators, most of them university students, of being manipulated by unspecified “minor-

ity” political interests and infiltrated by gangsters.

Those remarks appeared to fan the flames, as soon afterward thousands of people spilled back into the streets in seven cities including the capital, Managua, after tensions had calmed somewhat Friday night.

Minutes later news emerged of the killing of Gahona, who worked for the news show Meridiano.

The source of the gunshot was not discernible in either of the videos, but Lacayo was quoted by La Prensa newspaper as saying that police were the only ones carrying weapons at the scene.

A prominent business chamber issued a statement conditioning its talks with Ortega on an end to repression, the freeing of detained protesters and respect for freedom of expression as the authorities have kept off the air one private news channel that is covering the protests.

There were more clashes at the Polytechnical University of Nicaragua, one of the strongest bastions of the protesters.

Army troops were deployed to Esteli, a city north of Managua that has been a main flashpoint of the demonstrations, to help police repel protesters.

The reforms, issued by decree, increase income and payroll taxes and make changes to pensions to try to shore up Nicaragua's troubled social security system.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Inmate faces 111 years after wild furlough

NM CLOVIS — A New Mexico inmate who was granted a brief furlough before an expected seven-year sentence now faces 111 years in prison after he, according to authorities, returned late after allegedly committing new crimes.

The Eastern New Mexico News reported Brandon Wagner, 33, was arraigned last week on new charges of shoplifting and aggravated assault. Those charges came after prosecutors said Wagner returned over 16 hours late to the Curry County jail following a March 27 plea conference.

A judge had granted a five-hour furlough so Wagner could visit his family before being sentenced for identity theft and forgery convictions. According to prosecutors, during his furlough Wagner is accused of stealing \$5,000 in rings, trying to smuggle heroin into jail and attacking a health care worker.

Police: Man asleep in drive-thru had pills, gun

MS GULFPORT — The drive-thru lane of a Sonic Drive-In is no place to fall asleep, particularly if drugs are in plain sight inside your car.

Police in Gulfport, Miss., said officers found Robert Ashton Kerns, 24, fast asleep in the passenger seat of his still-running car.

The Sun Herald of Biloxi reported Thursday on the criminal complaint of a federal drug task force. It said a smoking pipe and nearly 50 oxycodone pills were in plain view. A search turned up 302 oxycodone pills, 1,515 alprazolam pills and a Glock 9 mm pistol.

Kerns was arrested on drug trafficking charges.

Bus leaves for New York, ends up in Toledo

OH CLEVELAND — Greyhound said it is investigating how a bus meant to take passengers from Cleveland to New York ended up in Toledo.

WEWS-TV reported that the bus left Cleveland several hours late on Thursday and was headed east through Pennsylvania when it started experiencing problems. The company said the driver was instructed to head back to Cleveland and get a new bus but instead drove about two hours past it, to Toledo. The driver then went back to Cleveland.

Passenger Morgan Staley said they spent about seven hours "just going in a circle."

Town's tornado sirens activated by hand

KS SOUTH HUTCHINSON — South Hutchinson authorities are warning residents not to rely on the city's outdoor sirens to alert them to violence.

The city's police department said last week that the sirens can't be activated remotely because of recent changes in the system.

The Wichita Eagle reported the sirens will be activated by hand by police, fire or city maintenance crews until scheduled up-

THE CENSUS

\$2.88M

Tennessee. Mathis, who got into card collecting, as a kid said he traded the "vast majority" of his collection to get the Mantle card.

The amount a Mickey Mantle baseball card sold for at auction. The 1952 card was sold by former NFL lineman Evan Mathis through Heritage Auctions. It earned the second-highest figure for a card at an auction; it trailed a 1909 Honus Wagner card that sold for \$3.12 million two years ago. The card, issued by Topps, is one of six versions to have been rated a Mint 9 by a sports memorabilia authenticator PSA. Mathis decided to sell the card to free up money so he could move his wife and daughters to



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Remembered

Tourists walk by portraits of Anastasiya Tschernikowa, left, and Andrzej Korczak-Branecki, both Holocaust survivors, that are part of the "Lest We Forget" installation by photographer Luigi Toscano along the Reflecting Pool in Washington. Toscano spent a year meeting Holocaust survivors in Germany, the United States, Ukraine, Israel and Russia. The portraits were on the National Mall until Sunday.

dates are completed.

Emergency management officials said tornado sirens are meant to warn only those people who are outside. South Hutchinson police urged residents to be sure their weather radios are working and to download weather alert apps on their mobile devices.

Feds: Inmate tried to send bomb via phone

SC COLUMBIA — Authorities said a man serving 50 years in prison for killing his ex-wife's father has been convicted of trying to send her a bomb through the mail by using a contraband cellphone.

Federal prosecutors said Michael Young Jr., 32, was convicted in a trial last week. He was charged with transport of an explosive with the intent to kill, conspiracy and other charges.

Authorities said Young wanted to keep his ex-wife from testifying in any potential new trial for killing Robert Bell, 49, in the parking lot of a Columbia mall in 2007. Police said Young was stalking his ex-wife and shot her and her father.

Prosecutors alleged that Young also ran a drug ring on his cellphone behind bars.

Police: Alert led man to ram, shoot at van

IA ALTOONA — Police in central Iowa arrested a Missouri man accused of ramming and firing shots at a van he mistakenly thought was involved

in an Amber alert.

The Des Moines Register said Matthew Golden, 41, of Kearney, Mo., called 911 just before 3 a.m. Tuesday after spotting a white van with Florida plates on Interstate 80 in Altoona. An Amber alert had been issued earlier for two Toronto, Iowa, children in a silver sedan with Illinois plates.

Police said Golden rammed the back of the van and fired two shots at it. Altoona Police Chief Greg Stallman said Golden ignored dispatchers' commands to stop. The van's driver, who also called 911, wasn't hurt.

Police found Golden stripped to his underwear lying face-down in the road. Officers said he had two guns and 16 grams of marijuana. He's charged with assault and other counts.

Owner posts personal ad for love-lorn goose

MS OCEAN SPRINGS — Lucy is a lover of long walks and a shared dinner of weeds, and she's looking for love.

That's according to an ad her owner placed on a Facebook page asking for possible gander suitors. Brandy Hall told The Sun Herald of Biloxi that she has taken it upon herself to find love for her pet Embden goose.

Lucy is currently enamored with Hall's Great Pyrenees, but the dog isn't very happy with the match. Hall said there haven't been many serious responses to her post so far, though someone did ask how much Lucy would cost.

Mom: Preschool's ban of 'best friend' is silly

MA GEORGETOWN — A Massachusetts family is looking for a new preschool for their daughter because her current school has barred use of the term "best friend."

Christine Hartwell said her daughter, Julia, 4, appeared sad recently when she came home from the Pentucket Workshop Preschool in Georgetown. The little girl told her mother she was upset because her teacher told her she couldn't call one of her classmates her "best friend."

School officials did not comment. In a letter to the Hartwells they said, "It has been our experience ... that the use of the term 'best friend,' even when used in a loving way, can lead other children to feel excluded."

Hartwell called the ban "outrageous" and "silly." She said children should be allowed to speak from their heart.

Police rescue raccoon from under SUV hood

CA EMERYVILLE — A baby raccoon halted Northern California traffic after he crawled inside the engine compartment of an SUV stopped at a traffic signal.

The East Bay Times reported that police Lt. Fred Dauer thought he had come across a traffic accident in Emeryville on Friday when he saw cars parked and people standing around using

their cellphones.

He quickly learned they had stopped because the driver of an SUV believed a raccoon he saw in the street had climbed inside his vehicle.

Dauer opened the hood and used a pole to free the 5- to 6-week-old raccoon, whom an animal officer named "Throttle."

The raccoon was taken to a shelter and is being transferred to a San Francisco wildlife rescue center.

Women send check for stolen cardboard cutout

VT BURLINGTON — Two women who took a life-sized cardboard cutout ad of a Vermont restaurant owner from an airport have sent a check to the bistro to pay for replacement costs.

Leunig's Bistro in Burlington said Tuesday that they received a written apology and a \$350 check to cover the cost of the stolen cutout of bistro co-owner Bob Conlon.

The women identify themselves as "Leunig's #1 Fans" and say they apologize for the inconvenience they caused the team.

The restaurant pledged a new Bob Conlon cutout would soon be back at Burlington International Airport.

Conlon said he was glad the suspects paid for the cutout.

The letter also says the women hope to eat dinner at the bistro in the future.

From wire reports

FACES

'I just missed a step'

Carrie Underwood details facial injury that needed at least 40 stitches

Carrie Underwood performs "Cry Pretty" at the 53rd annual Academy of Country Music Awards on April 15 in Las Vegas.

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP



By PETER SBLENDORIO
New York Daily News

Carrie Underwood went into detail for the first time about the gruesome accident she suffered last November that left her needing at least 40 stitches on her face.

The singer — who kept a low profile for months following the accident — revealed the injury she sustained occurred “around (her) mouth” and said it took place when she fell on a set of steps while walking her dogs.

“I went to catch myself and I just missed a step,” Underwood said April 19 on the radio program *The Bobby Bones Show*. “If I had fallen anywhere else I would have been perfectly fine, but it was one step that messed everything up.”

Underwood also suffered a broken right wrist in the fall. She says she managed to hold onto the dogs’ leashes with her left hand during the fall, and tried to catch herself with the other.

“I was worried [my son] would be scared of me,” Underwood said. “But now if I put makeup on, he’s like, ‘Mommy, your boo-boo’s all gone.’”

Underwood originally only informed fans about her broken wrist after the accident, but later opened up in a January post to her website that she also needed “between 40 and 50 stitches” on her face.

“You just don’t know how things are going to heal or end up,” Underwood told host Bobby Bones. “It was important to me as I started resuming my life again and going to the grocery store and taking my kid and stuff like that I was like, ‘OK, someone is gonna creep on me at the grocery store.’ And people are going to be like, ‘What happened?’ when they post it on Instagram.”

Underwood, who is married to NHL player Mike Fisher, stayed out of the spotlight following the fall, and refrained from posting photos of herself to social media until earlier this month when she shared a pair of pictures, including one showing her entire face.

She noted that she was wearing makeup over the injury during her appearance on *Bones’* show, but says she feels fortunate that she’s been able to heal up well.

Underwood made her return to the limelight when she performed April 15 at the Academy of Country Music Awards, where she sang her new single “Cry Pretty.”

Kanye West announces release date for eighth album — plus a collaboration with Kid Cudi

From wire reports

Rapper Kanye West is dropping an album June 1.

West continued his viral return to Twitter with the announcement April 19 that his eighth solo studio album will consist of seven songs.

And that’s not all — the Yeezy designer also revealed he and former protege Kid Cudi are teaming up as Kids See Ghost to put out another album June 8.

“me and Cudi album June 8th,” West wrote. “It’s called Kids See Ghost. That’s the name of our group.”

The big reveal capped off a string of nearly 50 tweets that saw the rapper, 40, waxing poetic on life, offering glimpses of upcoming designs for his Yeezy shoe line and diving deep into his own psyche. “Fear often causes people to be manipulative,” he wrote April 17. “Be transparent as possible. Stop setting plays. Stop playing chess with life. Make decisions based on love not fear.”

He also addressed an upcoming book that he was “writing in real time,” and that he would be working on “when I feel like it.”

West’s upcoming record — which has yet to receive an official title — will be his first since 2016’s “The Life of Pablo.”

Grande drops new song

Ariana Grande has released her first song since a 2017 terrorist attack during her concert in the United Kingdom.

The 24-year-old posted a video of “No Tears Left to Cry” on Instagram on April 20. The emotional song includes the lyrics: “Right now I’m in a state of mind / I wanna be in like all the time / Ain’t got no tears left to cry / So I’m pickin’ it up, I’m pickin’ it up.”

Grande suspended her Dangerous Woman Tour after a terrorist bombing killed 22 and injured more than 500 at Manchester Arena in May 2017. She returned for the One Love Manchester charity concert weeks later.

New Prince record available

Nothing compares to a new Prince record, right?

Warner Bros. is releasing Prince’s version of “Nothing Compares 2 U,” a produced rendition of the demo tape he recorded in July 1984 for the musical group Family to learn. Their recording, which included strings arranged by Clarence Fischer, appeared on the 1985 album “The Family.”

On this newly released Prince record,

he played all the instruments and sang lead vocals. Eric Leeds’ saxophone solo and backup vocals by the Family’s co-lead singers St. Paul Peterson and Susannah Melvoin were added later.

“I learned the melody and emotional approach from Prince’s version,” Peterson said April 19. “He sounds great on it. My inflections are similar to his.”

Prince’s version is available for streaming and will be available as a 7-inch black vinyl May 25 from physical retailers.

Other news

■ **Tina Fey** will return to “Saturday Night Live” as host May 19 for the show’s season 43 finale. Nicki Minaj will serve as musical guest, the show announced via social media April 18. The appearance marks Fey’s sixth time hosting “SNL” since she left the show’s cast in 2006.

■ **Tyne Daly**, who played Lacey in CBS’ groundbreaking “Cagney and Lacey,” about two female police detectives, is joining the cast of the planned reboot of “Murphy Brown.” CBS announced that Daly will play the role of Phyllis, the sister of the deceased bar owner Phil from the original series. As the new bar owner, Phyllis will be a friend and confidant to Murphy Brown

(Candice Bergen) and her colleagues.

■ “Frankenstein” author **Mary Shelley** is the National Geographic TV network’s third genius. The network announced April 19 that the 19th-century writer will be the next subject of what is becoming a franchise, a miniseries on a particular historical figure. The first series, featuring Albert Einstein, premiered last year. The second, profiling artist Pablo Picasso, starts Tuesday. Shelley was a prolific writer in the early 1800s, with “Frankenstein” in particular still alive as a piece of literature. The Shelley series will air in 2019, most likely in the spring.

■ Police say a 2-year-old boy whose polygamist family is featured on a reality TV show has died following a fire in a southeastern Utah home. The Deseret News reports the 2-year-old died of smoke inhalation April 14 after a fire ignited in the room where he was sleeping. Members of the toddler’s family star in TLC’s “Three Wives, One Husband.”

■ A pair of women who worked with R. Kelly for years resigned from their positions amid a wave of harrowing allegations against the singer. His ex-student Diana Copeland and his entertainment attorney Linda Mensch both recently told the BBC they’re no longer working with the singer.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Trump's merchandising empire has faded

The Washington Post

Before he ran for office, Donald Trump made millions by selling his name to adorn other people's products. There was Trump deodorant, Trump ties, Trump steaks, Trump underwear, Trump furniture. At one time, there was even a Trump-branded urine test.

Now, almost all of them are gone.

In 2015, Trump listed 19 companies that were paying him to produce or distribute Trump-branded consumer goods.

In recent weeks, only two said they are still selling Trump-branded goods. One is a Panamanian company selling Trump bed linens and home goods. The other is a Turkish company selling Trump furniture.

The decline of the Trump merchandise empire is another sign of how politics has changed the president's business. On one hand, it has allowed his Mar-a-Lago Club and his Washington hotel to monetize his political alliances, raking in money from evangelical Christian groups and GOP campaigns.

But it has also driven away cus-



SALWAN GEORGES/The Washington Post

Select by Trump coffee pods are no longer being made.

tomers and partners who'd been drawn to the old Trump.

The Trump Organization sells its own name-branded merchandise. Last year, it opened an e-commerce site, www.TrumpStore.com, with an inventory of Trump T-shirts, teddy bears and key chains.

But the licensed-merchandise business was something different. It allowed Trump to make money

off other people's work, other people's products, other people's marketing.

Milton Pedraza, chief executive of the Luxury Institute, a consultant to luxury brands, said Trump began to undermine his own success by "label-slapping" — sticking his name on anything he could, even the farfetched and ridiculous.

By 2015, when Trump entered

the presidential race, some of his more far-out ideas — steaks, urine tests and vitamins — were already kaput. But, according to his financial disclosures, the 19 remaining licensees were still paying him a combined \$2.4 million-plus per year, just to put the Trump name on their goods.

Then Trump ran for president. "We are disappointed and distressed by recent remarks about immigrants from Mexico," said a corporate statement from Macy's, after Trump called Mexican immigrants criminals and "rapists" at his first campaign event. "We have decided to discontinue our business relationship with Mr. Trump."

A few months later, Trump called for a "total and complete shutdown" of Muslims entering the United States.

He lost another partner, a Dubai-based company that had a license to sell Trump furniture in the Middle East, Africa and India.

Trump coffee, also, is no more. "It was a lack of sales," said Sam Blaney at Two Rivers Coffee, which stopped making its Select

by Trump coffee pods last year. "Not every idea was a good idea."

Only two companies are still paying to put Trump's name on their products.

One is HomeStudio, which produces Trump-branded bed linens and housewares for the Latin American market. It declined to comment for this story beyond confirming that it still makes Trump goods.

The other is Dorya, a Turkey-based manufacturer of Trump Home Collection furniture.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 23)	\$1.2620
Dollar buys (April 23)	69.7894
British pound (April 23)	\$1.44
Japanese yen (April 23)	105.00
South Korean won (April 23)	1,041.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.4023
Canada (Dollar)	1.2748
China (Yuan)	6.2978
Denmark (Krone)	6.0639
Egypt (Pound)	17.6186
Euro	\$1.2283/0.8142
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8434
Hungary (Forint)	253.16
Israel (Shekel)	3.5311
Japan (Yen)	107.60
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3001
Norway (Krone)	7.8235
Philippines (Peso)	52.16
Poland (Zloty)	3.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3155
South Korea (Won)	1,071.75
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8748
Thailand (Baht)	31.33
Turkey (New Lira)	4.0679
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federated funds market rate	0.69
3-month bill	1.76
30-year bond	3.10

Employers urged not to hold discharge status against vets

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — A Connecticut agency issued new guidance last week, warning employers they could be breaking the law if they discriminate against veterans with less-than-honorable discharges from the military.

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities said blanket policies against hiring such veterans could be discriminatory because the military has issued so-called bad paper disproportionately to blacks and Latinos as well as servicemembers who are gay or have disabilities.

"We want employers to look at veterans on a case-by-case basis," said Cheryl Sharp, a deputy director of the commission.

The guidance makes Connecticut the first state to take the position that discrimination based on discharge status can violate protections based on race, sexual orientation and disability, according to advocates at the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School.

The groups cited a 2017 report by the advocacy organization Protect Our Defenders that found black servicemembers were much more likely than white to have disciplinary action taken against.

In its new guidance to employers, CHRO notes that some veterans without honorable discharges were separated from the military for minor infractions such as being late or watching a movie on duty that would not have led to criminal charges in civilian life. It also notes that up until 2011, thousands of gay servicemembers were discharged because of their sexual orientation.

The commission's announcement follows passage in the Connecticut Senate of a bill that would ensure veterans with other-than-honorable discharges can access state veterans benefits.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Keep effective airline safety rules in place

By JOE NOCERA

Bloomberg View

You can learn a surprising amount about airline safety by listening to the eight-minute YouTube audio of Southwest Airlines 1380's emergency landing in Philadelphia.

The voices are those of an air traffic controller in Philadelphia and Tammie Jo Shults, the pilot of Southwest Airlines Flight 1380, who made an emergency landing there on Tuesday after one of the plane's engines failed catastrophically. "Could you have medical personnel on the runway?" she says at the 2:50 mark. "We have injured passengers."

"Is your airplane physically on fire?" the controller asks.

"No," she replies. "It's not on fire but part of it is missing."

When Shults is cleared to land, she says, in that laconic pilot voice Tom Wolfe immortalized in "The Right Stuff." "Thanks, guys, for the help." Then she expertly guides the plane onto the runway, using the one remaining engine. There is no moment when Shults sounds panicked, or even mildly nervous. She is in complete control.

It is tragic that one of the passengers — Jennifer Riordan, a Wells Fargo executive and mother of two from Albuquerque, N.M. — died on that flight.

Yet here's an astonishing statistic: Before Riordan, the last time someone died as a result of an accident on a U.S. carrier was nine years ago, when a commuter plane, Colgan Air Flight 3407, crashed into a house while trying to land in Buffalo, N.Y., killing 50 people.

The previous crash of a U.S. carrier had taken place three years earlier, in 2006, killing 49 people during the takeoff of a Comair plane. That's just two crashes in 12 years, reinforcing a point airline safety experts like to make: Flying is extraordinarily safe.

Airline travel kills fewer people per year than swing sets (20 deaths), bathtubs (300 deaths) or staircases (1,600 deaths). Flying on a U.S. carrier especially may be the safest thing a human can do, aside from sleeping. (Actually, 450 people die each year from falling out of bed.)

Why? Part of the reason is that modern airplanes have equipment that guards against problems that once led to crashes. Remember wind shear? Catastrophes resulting from a sudden "downburst" used to be relatively common. But the last one took place over 20 years ago. Since then, the Federal Aviation Administration put out a wind-shear avoidance course that all pilots take, and airlines have installed wind-shear detection systems.

Or how about "controlled flight in terrain," as the act of slamming into the side of a mountain or building is called in the airline business? Crashes of that sort, which used to take place from time to time when pilots became disoriented, are now vanishingly rare. Planes are now equipped with systems that set off alarms if a pilot is in danger of hitting something, including another plane in the sky.

Aircraft now come equipped with automated "fly-by-wire" systems, which can intervene to prevent pilots from making a mistake. As the writer William Langewiesche has noted in several articles and books, pilots resent the degree to which automation has taken over so much decision-making in the cockpit. But it has saved lives.

The second reason is that for all their corner-cutting and nickel-and-dimeing of customers, U.S. airlines generally do not scrimp on safety. Plane crashes generate huge lawsuits and cause people to avoid the airline whose plane has crashed, at least temporarily. Conversely, as the writer and airline expert R.D. Sussmann-Doherty puts it, "A well-maintained aircraft is an



COREY PERRINE/AP

A Southwest Airlines plane Sits on a runway at Philadelphia International Airport after Flight 1380 pilot Tammie Jo Shults made an emergency landing Tuesday.



AP

Passengers in an inflatable raft move away from US Airways Flight 1549 that pilot Chesley Sullenberger landed on the Hudson River in New York on Jan. 15, 2009.

on-time aircraft."

Finally, there are the pilots themselves. "I would argue that the most improved 'equipment' has been pilots," said Joe Brancatelli, who writes the "Joe Sent Me" newsletter for frequent travelers. "They are more mature and better trained."

In the vast majority of plane crashes, pilot error is usually found to have played a big role. In the 2006 Comair crash the pilot mistakenly tried to take off using a runway that was too short for the aircraft. And in the 2009 Colgan Air crash, both the pilot and co-pilot made a series of inexplicable errors that caused them to lose control of the plane as it prepared to land.

After the 2009 crash, the FAA did something the National Transportation Safety Board had been urging for years: It tightened rules meant to prevent pilot fatigue. Among other things, it limited the amount of time a pilot could be flying a domestic flight to nine hours, with a mandated 10 hours of rest before flying. And it increased the number of hours of required flight time from 250 to 1,500 for a pilot to get a commercial pilot's license.

There have been complaints ever since. Smaller communities say the requirements have resulted in a decrease in flights to their towns. Airlines say they are going to lead to a pilot shortage as veteran pilots retire.

But there is no doubt that the rules have

had a lot to do with why U.S. carriers have seen so few fatalities. Recall Chesley Sullenberger — the famous "Sully" — who in 2009 had both the skill and the presence of mind to land his hobbled plane on the Hudson River, saving the lives of the 155 passengers on board.

Or think again about Shults, who expertly landed her damaged plane under difficult circumstances. When you require 1,500 hours of flight time before allowing a pilot to fly passengers in the U.S., that is probably the kind of pilot you're going to get.

As it has in so many other areas of government, President Donald Trump's administration wants to reduce or eliminate many of the FAA's safety rules, including the 1,500-hour requirement. Airline safety groups and all the experts I spoke to on Wednesday vehemently object.

"Deregulating airline safety is a terrible idea," said Steven Marks, a lawyer who specializes in plane crashes. "If you deregulate banking, it can cause financial problems. But with airlines, the consequences of deregulation can be death."

What happened on Tuesday should strengthen their hand. If the 1,500-hour rule is retained as a result of the publicity surrounding Shults' remarkable landing, then Jennifer Riordan will not have died in vain.

Joe Nocera is a Bloomberg View columnist.

OPINION

N. Korea keeps conning Trump or nukes

By MAX BOOT
The Washington Post

When President Donald Trump announced March 8 his intention to meet with Kim Jong Un, I wrote that the leaders of South and North Korea had “snookered the credulous American president into a high-profile summit that is likely to end in disaster one way or another.”

A lot has happened since. Kim has let it be known that he is willing to discuss denuclearization and a peace treaty to end the Korean War — without insisting on a pullout of U.S. forces. CIA Director Mike Pompeo has journeyed to Pyongyang to meet with Kim. And on Friday, Kim announced that he will end nuclear and missile tests and shut down the site where the nuclear tests have been conducted.

In light of all this news, a reader writes to ask, “Just wondering if you are going to update your March 8 ‘snooker’ piece.” Yes, I am. Here’s the update: Kim is a more adept con man, and Trump an easier mark, than even I had imagined.

These are not “breakthroughs” signaling peace in time. These are indications of how skillfully Kim is maneuvering to preserve his nuclear program while relaxing international sanctions and dissipating Trump’s “fire and fury.”

Trump is the one who has made a significant concession by becoming the first sitting U.S. president willing to meet with the leader of North Korea — an act that will inherently legitimize the ruler of the world’s most despotic regime and feed its propaganda that even the world’s sole superpower feels compelled to bow before its mighty nuclear arsenal. What is Trump getting in return? So far, not even freedom for the three American hostages in North Korea — although Kim hints that this small concession will come.

Trump seems to think that much bigger concessions are on the way, too. On Wednesday he tweeted: “Mike Pompeo met with Kim Jong Un in North Korea last week. Meeting went very smoothly and a good relationship was formed. Details of Summit are being worked out now. Denuclearization will be a great thing for World, but also for North Korea!”

In reality, as numerous experts have pointed out, “denuclearization” doesn’t mean the same thing to Kim that it does to Trump. For Kim, it’s a code word for the United States withdrawing its security guarantee from South Korea, allowing the North to bully and possibly even swallow its neighbor. A “peace treaty” would advance that goal. Why would the United States need to protect the South if it’s “at peace” with the North?

Ah, but hasn’t Kim now said he is willing

to allow U.S. troops to remain in the South even after an agreement? Yes, and so did his father, Kim Jong Il, in the 1990s. The elder Kim said North Korea “would be amenable to U.S. troops staying ‘as a peace-keeping force in Korea, instead of a hostile force against the North.’” It’s hard to know exactly what that means, but it suggests a small, symbolic, lightly armed presence that cannot credibly deter North Korea.

Kim’s latest pledge — to stop nuclear and missile testing — is not, as Trump tweeted, “big progress,” because he has said it before and it can easily be reversed. Explaining this move, Kim claimed that his nuclear weapons program is complete and doesn’t need any more tests. Even if that’s not true, there may be a practical reason for closing the nuclear test site — repeated nuclear explosions deep in Mount Mantap may be bringing it close to collapse. The junior Kim is again following the example of his father, who in 2008 blew up the cooling tower of a nuclear facility to show he was serious about talks. Only he wasn’t.

None of this Kabuki theater means that Kim is about to give up a nuclear weapons program his family has spent decades and precious billions of dollars developing. Keanowise that the United States overthrew Moammar Gadhafi and Saddam Hussein after they gave up their weapons of mass destruction. He is not about to emulate their unfortunate example — especially

not when the new national security adviser, John Bolton, has advocated a preventive war against North Korea.

Caution is in order, but Trump abounds with credibility. Axios’ Jonathan Swan writes that the president has given up his naive and grandiose hopes that he alone can bring peace to the Middle East. Now the president thinks he alone can bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. According to Axios’ reporting, he thinks, “Just get me in the room with the guy [Kim Jong Un] and I’ll figure it out.”

Uh-huh. Trump knows next to nothing about Korea. (On Tuesday he said, “People don’t realize the Korean War has not ended,” meaning he just found out.) He has set expectations sky-high and, vastly overconfident, he is going to parlay with a wily dictator who has played him like a Stradivarius. What could possibly go wrong?

Kim may be evil, but he’s not stupid — or suicidal. He’s stringing Trump along, making vague promises that he has no intention of keeping. And Trump, the rube who thinks he’s a sophisticate, shows every sign of falling for the bait.

Max Boot, a Washington Post columnist, is the Jean E. Kirkpatrick senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of “The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam.”

Exchanges resist plan to merge with faltering commissaries

By TOM PHILPOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

Defense Department officials want Congress to include in its fiscal 2019 defense policy bill new authority to execute its plan to merge the Defense Commissary Agency with the three military exchange services under a single system of on-base stores to be called the Defense Resale Enterprise.

Resisting that effort out of public view are executives of the exchange services who fear their own success in running base department stores, gas stations and convenience outlets, which generate profits to support on-base morale, welfare and recreational activities, could be put at risk by some of the policy executives they blame for deepening the decline in sales across the commissary system.

Congress two years ago gave the department authority and new tools to “transform” base grocery stores, which for generations relied on taxpayer dollars to offer a wide array of brand products to military families and retirees at cost.

In addition, the shopper pays a 5 percent surcharge to fund modernization or replacement of aging commissaries.

The goal of recent reforms is to turn commissaries into profit-generating stores, similar to exchanges, thus lowering the \$1.3 billion annual subsidy so that money can be diverted to more critical needs for sustaining a ready combat force.

Congress insisted, however, that overall savings to patrons not drop, even as DeCA phases in more businesslike practices. Two big ones are variable pricing of goods to replace the tradition of selling at cost, and adoption of commissary label goods to replace the tradition with a narrow selection of national brands.

Manufacturers over the past year have competed through pricing for commissary shelf space. Surviving brands, in turn, often have cut coupon offerings and other promotions to make up for lower pricing, say industry sources. Meanwhile, they have complained, it’s

MILITARY UPDATE

unclear whether their reduced profit margins are being passed on to patrons or retained to offset commissary operating costs. So far, critics in industry contend, one clear consequence of commissary reforms has been to accelerate declining sales.

Policy officials implementing the reforms are now seen as doubling down on their bet, insisting that, to survive, military resale stores must consolidate to squeeze out inefficiencies, rescue commissaries and evolve into super retailers to more effectively compete with commercial stores, not only on prices but on providing a more attractive, rewarding and convenient shopping experience.

Officials are warning Congress, store suppliers and advocates for military shoppers that defending the status quo, amid falling sales, will jeopardize “the department’s ability to ensure the long-term viability” of base stores.

The comment appears in a draft legislative proposal for creating the Defense Resale Enterprise by merging DeCA with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Exchange Command and the Marine Corps exchange system.

A merger, the proposal contends, will reduce reliance on appropriated funding, eliminate management redundancies, increase enterprise-wide efficiencies and systems, cut operating costs and generate greater margins on goods sold “to be reinvested in price reductions, morale, welfare and recreation program funding and capital reinvestment.”

It also contends the agency “will increase the enterprise’s ability to respond to dynamic mission, industry and patron requirements and trends; and ensure the long-term viability of these services” as benefits of military service.

Sources say exchange officials are concerned about the team executing what so far are unproven commissary reforms is

directing a merger of all resale operations with misleading claims. They are bristling at briefing materials to explain merger plans that lump exchanges in with DeCA as distressed operations. That’s just wrong, exchange leaders are contending, according to sources.

For example, AAFES touts that it has almost doubled earnings from sales over a recent five-year period, from 3.2 percent in 2012 to 5.9 percent in 2016, despite an 11 percent force drawdown across Army and Air Force in those years. Also, its website business is growing 50 percent annually and AAFES says it consistently has delivered about \$375 million annually to support MWR programs.

And yet, sources say, to win support for a merger, DOD officials have portrayed exchanges as part of a failing resale system. The only store system that has been mismanaged, particularly against outside competitors, is DeCA, they insist. One internal communication referred to DeCA as “the elephant in the room,” with sales down 20 percent since 2012 and current reforms aggravating patrons rather than turning sales around.

April 2017 DOD officials briefed some military associations on merger plans, and perhaps also learned what sort of resistance to expect. Advocacy groups say they need to learn more.

“We are open to ideas that could make the system more efficient as long as they also protect the team executing what’s for military families,” said Eileen Huck, deputy director of government relations for the National Military Family Association.

Priorities for families are to sustain shopper savings, improve the in-store experience and ensure proper funding of MWR programs, Huck says.

Streamlining of backroom processes across base stores to gain efficiency instead of diluting the shopping benefit “is something we support,” said Brooke Goldberg, director of military family policy for the Military Officers Association of America. But he hopes a full merger of stores benefit the exchanges, she asked.

“We don’t have answers on that,” she said.

“The intriguing part of all this is the untapped potential of commissaries,” Goldberg said. “... [T]here are things that should be explored [to] preserve that benefit. But we also want to preserve the exchanges.”

“Any change to the commissary that negatively affects the exchange is not something we support.”

Steve Rossetti, director of government affairs for the American Logistics Association, the industry trade group for businesses supporting military resale, cautioned against using exchange earnings to underwrite a wider resale enterprise. The earnings belong to patrons, he said, and have been used for decades to reinvest in exchanges and support MWR to improve base community programs.

Rossetti suggested DOD officials should focus first on reversing the falloff in sales at commissaries before launching a merger with exchanges to try to gain long-term efficiencies, and also that they “take a long hard look before they leap to ensure benefits truly outweigh costs.”

“The commissary is a commissary system, and their quest to cut taxpayer support of it, could endanger still-thriving exchanges if, through merger, their profits are seen as a life raft to save grocery discounts as the law requires.”

The draft legislative proposal describes the idea of merging all existing all base retail operations competitive, for example by allowing exchanges and commissaries to combine into single stores. That could “respond to generational shopping habits” and to market forces “impacting all traditional grocery and retail stores,” it says. “Many stores (ages at 22-36), who collectively represent the majority of military shoppers, [are] using technology to shop and save, and are driven by speed, convenience, proximity, variety (rather than brand) and experiences.”

Sends comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

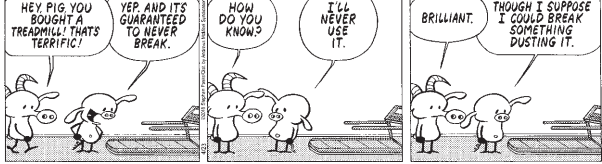
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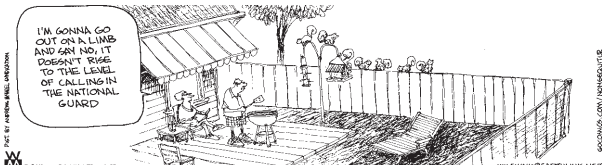
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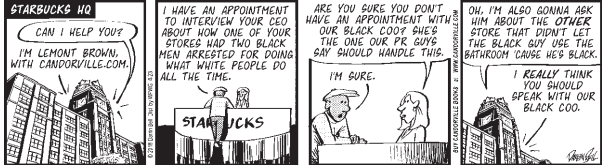
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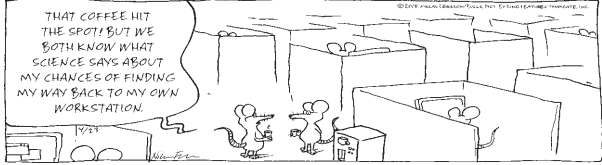
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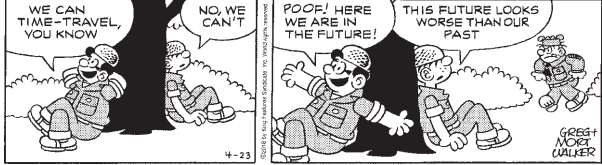
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
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24	25	26							27		28	29
31					32				33		34	
35					36				37		38	
					39				40			
42	43				44				45		46	47
49									50		51	
52									53		54	
55									56		57	

ACROSS

- Want-ad listings
- PC's brain
- Counterfeit
- Folksinger
- Stimpy's pal
- Ginormous
- Bump into
- Not yet
- apprehended
- Book jacket
- promos
- Gave a speech
- Celestial bear
- Cardinal cap
- letters
- Sweetie
- Lofty
- Verb for you
- Org. that tracks
- Santa
- SSW opposite
- Caterwaul
- Pool party
- squirtler
- Brit's restroom
- Green land
- Hitchcock classic
- Big name in flatware
- "I had a ball!"
- Reed and Rawls
- 52 Bard
- Monk's title
- Engrave

DOWN

- "Smooth Operator" singer
- Part of RSVP
- See socially
- Emanations
- Horse chow
- Granada gold
- One who got married yesterday
- Doorframe piece
- Pitcher Hershiser
- Chicken
- ardon —
- "Amen to that!"
- Medieval weapon
- Corral
- "Do — others ..."
- Scabbard
- Moving rapidly, as a falling meteor
- Malaria symptom
- Repair
- 17 Day divs.
- Mawr
- 22 Emanations
- 24 Horse chow
- 25 Granada gold
- 26 One who got married yesterday
- 27 Countrywide
- 29 Bearded beast
- 30 Chick's mom
- 33 Bruce of "Nebraska"
- 36 Pinpoint
- 38 Staggered
- 40 Surprised cries
- 42 Gladys Knight's backup
- 43 Old portico
- 44 Does in
- 46 Tiny bit
- 47 Tear canal
- 48 Tennis great
- Arthur
- 50 Mentalist Geller

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	T	U	T	E	D	A	C	T	N	O	W
P	A	N	I	N	I	L	O	Y	O	L	A
O	C	T	A	S	D	S	F	I	S	C	A
T	H	O	R	G	M	A	N	T	T	N	T
				A	G	U	A	S	T	U	
A	W	E	N	I	N	E	A	R	I	D	
M	Y	C	O	U	S	I	N	V	I	N	N
P	O	L	E	A	V	E	E	K	E		
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A	R	C	T	E	S	S	O	U	R	S	
M	U	T	T	E	R	A	M	U	S	E	S
O	L	I	V	I	A	G	A	V	E	L	S
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4-23

CRYPTOQUIP

IMEOKMIL LPJE SZPRK LPNI
LKSJRJFO YPLMLB-YRIB NMJVL
AOP AIVI JPKSZBX BPXSB:

"KVRI FPBBMVL."
Saturday's Cryptoquip: EVEN THOUGH YOUR FACE LACKS A HEALTHY GLOW, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY, RUDDY OR NOT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S


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Announcements 040

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Automotive 140**SELLER BEWARE**

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SPORTS BRIEFS/HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC

Briefly

Z. Johnson, Landry share Texas lead

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Zach Johnson birdied the par-5 18th Saturday at the Valero Texas Open for a share of the third-round lead with Andrew Landry, a stroke ahead of record-setting Trey Mullinax.

Johnson shot a 4-under 68, holding a 10-footer on 18 to match Landry at 13-under 203 at TPC San Antonio's AT&T Oaks. Landry birdied the 16th and 17th in a 67.

Johnson won the event in 2008 and 2009, the last two times it was played at LaCantera. The 42-year-old Iowan is trying to win for the first time since the 2015 British Open.

"I've got 18 holes to get to that point," Johnson said. "I've got to do exactly what I did on the back side and that was give myself opportunities on every hole. I'm putting great, I'm seeing the lines well, my caddie's reading the greens well, so it's just a matter of committing and executing down the stretch."

The 30-year-old Landry is winless on the tour.

Mullinax had a course-record 62. He played the back nine in 7-under 29, going 6 under on the last five with eagles on the par-5 14th and 15th and birdies on 16 and 17. He also birdied Nos. 10 and 12 and bogeyed 11.

Jutanugarn, Ko share lead in PGA LA tourney

LOS ANGELES — Moriya Jutanugarn overcame a poor start and birdied the 18th for a hard-earned 1-under 70 tie Jin Young Ko at 9 under going into the final round of the LA Open.

Ko shot a 66 at Wilshire Country Club on Saturday in her bid to become the year's first two-time winner on the PGA Tour. She won the Women's Australian Open in February, her first victory as an official tour member. Jutanugarn is trying to match younger sister Ariya as a tour champion. Seven-time winner Ariya was tied for 27th after a 72 in the third round.

Moriya Jutanugarn's round included a double bogey on the par-4 first hole and a bogey on the par-4 sixth. She eagled the par-4 14th.

Nadal beats Nishikori in Monte Carlo final

MONACO — Rafael Nadal won a record 31st Masters final after beating Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-2 in the Monte Carlo Masters final on Sunday.

Nadal also became the first man in the Open era to win the same title 11 times — 13 years after his first title here — and moved one ahead of rival Novak Djokovic for career Masters titles.

"It's great to have this trophy in my hand again," Nadal said. "It gave him a 76th title overall

and ensured the Spaniard keeps his top ranking ahead of Roger Federer.

Keys sends US into Fed Cup final

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France — Defending champion United States will play in a second consecutive Fed Cup final after defeating France on Sunday.

Madison Keys secured the decisive point for the visiting team by beating Pauline Parmentier 7-6 (4), 6-4 in the second reverse singles. Keys' victory gave the defending champions an unassailable 3-1 lead over France in their semifinal.

The 13th-ranked Keys, a late replacement for CoCo Vandeweghe, came back from a 4-1 deficit in the first set and made the decisive break in the ninth game of the second set with two consecutive winners.

Broner, Vargas fight to 12-round majority draw

NEW YORK — Adrian Broner and Jessie Vargas spent 12 rounds trading punches. A few moments later, they exchanged angry words and opposite views of what transpired.

The one thing the two fighters agreed upon? A rematch should be in the offing.

"We can do it again. I'm ready to fight right now," Vargas said after he and Broner fought to a 12-round majority draw in a welterweight fight Saturday night at the Barclays Center. "We can run it back."

Judge Julie Lederman scored the fight 115-113 for Broner, and Eric Marliniski and Kevin Morgan had it 114-114.

According to the scorecards, Lederman and Marliniski had Broner leading 105-104 heading into the 12th round, while Morgan had Vargas ahead, 105-104. Lederman and Morgan scored the 12th for Broner, 10-9, while Marliniski had Vargas winning the round, 10-9.

After the ruling was announced, Broner (33-3-1) and Vargas (28-2-1) exchanged words in the ring.

NBA fines Wizards' Morris, Celtics' Morris

NEW YORK — The NBA fined Washington Wizards forward Markieff Morris and twin brother Marcus Morris of the Boston Celtics for their roles in separate incidents during playoff games.

Markieff Morris was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Saturday for attempting to escalate an altercation and pushing an official during a game against Toronto on Friday night.

Marcus Morris was also docked \$15,000 for criticizing officials after the Celtics' 116-92 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND



DAVE ORSHUER/Stars and Stripes

Yokota's Sarah Schultz shoots between Edgren defenders Sopheary Soun and Kayla Ashby on Saturday.

Kadena up to the challenge

Korina Macato, at 5-foot-1 one of the smallest Kadena girls soccer players, found a way Saturday to come up big in the closing minutes in the final match of the American School In Japan Soccer Festival.

Macato took a feed from midfielder Pam Barrett and got the equalizer with just under three minutes left. Then Adrianna Gomez notched her team-high 31st of a scramble in front following a corner kick with 44 seconds left to give Kadena a 3-2 win over the host Mustangs.

"This group needed to be stretched, and this match stretched them as far as they could go. We had to play that one all the way to the end," Panthers coach Abe Summers said after Kadena improved to a DODEA Pacific-best 19-0 on the season.

Kadena steamrolled its way into the final, winning its first four matches by shutout. But the host Mustangs pushed the Panthers to the final whistle.

Macato said the Panthers gained some valuable takeaways from the tournament: "We should always stay calm, keep our heads up and trust each other," said Macato, who has 16 goals this season, tied for second-most on the team with Phoebe Bills.

Yokota: Emily Tyan, normally a goalkeeper, scored her second goal of the season as the Panthers remained the only other unbeaten girls soccer team, at 17-0, as they romped 8-0 over Edgren, completing a weekend sweep. They beat the Eagles 4-0 on Friday.

Edgren: Senior right-hander Brittany Crown struck out 30 Kinnick batters in two games as the Eagles swept a weekend series, winning 5-3 on Friday and 10-5 on Saturday. Crown homered and stole home to help her cause on Saturday.

Zama: Right-hander Joshua Bayardo "was lights out" in Friday's 9-4 win over Perry. Bayardo struck out 19, and held the Samurai to three hits. ... Following an 11-8 loss Friday, Trojans softball raked Perry pitchers for 16 hits in a 20-10 win Saturday over the Samurai.

Kinnick: Senior Exotica Hall won the high jump, 100 and 200 and also helped the Red Devils to victory in the 400 relay. Kinnick topped the boys and girls standings in the final regular-season meet before next Saturday's final Far East qualifier, also at Yokota.

E.J. King: Normally known for her tennis prowess, Megumi Kodama, a former DODEA Japan singles champion, scored her first goal of the season on Friday to boost the Cobras past M.C. Perry 2-1. It was King's lone win of the weekend, against two losses on Saturday.

M.C. Perry: Entering the weekend, Samurai junior striker Kai Lange was ahead of the goal-scoring pace of Perry's Tylor Apple, who in 2012 set the Pacific's single-season mark of 64. Lange had 43 after 20 matches and Apple 41 six years ago. Lange scored eight goals in two matches over the weekend, the Samurai beating King 6-0 and 5-1.

Kubasaki: Ja'Tavia Callier stayed unbeaten on island in the 100 and 300 hurdles and also won the high jump, Elizabeth Joy won the 1,600 and 3,200 and Nala Gardner the 100 and 200 to power Dragons girls track to yet another team win in the last regular season meet before next week's district finals.

Guam High: Reigning island cross country champion Isaac Ventura swept the 800, 1,500 and 3,000 as the Panthers boys track team topped the standings in an island meet for the second time in three meets. The Panthers girls team is unbeaten thus far this season.

Humphreys: Junior Quintin Metcalf continues closing in on the northwest Pacific high jump record. He leaped 1.96 meters on Saturday, just .04 short of the region mark set by Kadena's Lotty Smith in 2011. Metcalf has next week's Korea district meet and Far East May 21-23 to join Smith in jumping two meters.

Daegu: Bethani Newbold threw a complete-game victory, allowing Osan just one hit and two walks while striking out six and helped herself with a homer and six RBIs as the Warriors blanked the Cougars 15-0. Daegu also walked Humphreys 16-1 Saturday at Camp Walker.

Daegu: Despite losing Friday 3-2 to Humphreys, the defending Korea Blue regular-season and tournament champion Cougars girls soccer team can still finish second and earn the No. 2 seed in the tournament. The Cougars have to hope Seoul American beats the Blackhawks in Monday's makeup match.

Seoul American: Ebony Dykes won the shot put again, Renee Thompson the discus, Alyse Neal the long jump and 400 and Chloe Byrd the 1,600 and 3,200 for the Falcons girls track team, which just missed edged out Humphreys, losing 180-173½.

— Stars and Stripes

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE/AUTO RACING

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

AOSR's Denise Rapp fires a shot over a wall of Aviano defenders on Saturday.

Success shared on Italy pitch

Vicenza continued a breakout girls soccer season Friday with an emphatic 8-1 win over Vilsbeck, part of a two-day, four-school Division I meet at Vicenza.

The Cougars outshot the Falcons 24-1 in the first half and 38-2 overall. Grace Bello, Hope Bello, Amy Silbaugh and Madeline Moller dominated the ball for the Cougars, giving Vilsbeck very few opportunities to get close to the net. The Bello sisters each had three goals, Silbaugh added another one and Kelly Shimmers headed in yet another.

Vicenza's momentum was slowed Saturday against a dominant Stuttgart squad. The Panthers won 6-0 behind a pair of scores by Tatyana Garcia.

Saturday featured another girls rout as well as Naples outclassed Vilsbeck 5-0. Thalita Galindo scored twice while keeper Katherine Abresch posted a five-save shutout.

Vilsbeck's boys evened the soccer score with Vicenza with a 2-1 win Friday. The Falcons scored the first two goals of the match; Hernan Rosales assisted the first off a corner kick and scored the second on a free kick from 30 yards out.

The Falcons played another close matchup on Saturday. Vilsbeck's Emmanuel Etiong scored a second-half goal for a 1-1 tie with Naples.

A similarly structured Division II meet took place in Aviano over the weekend, with all four participants enjoying memorable moments.

The boys of American Overseas School of Rome handled Rota 7-1 on Friday and came back Saturday with a gritty 2-1 defeat of the gutsy hosts, Luca Baldestine punched in Saturday's game-winner with 15 minutes to play.

Despite the loss, Aviano was encouraged by its ability to stay close to its elite opponent. Strong play by standout goalie Giacomo Fabbro and a second-half score by Luke Farrington kept the Saints in striking distance throughout.

Marymount boys star Mario Treilino put on a clinic for the defending champion Royals. He scored the team's first four goals in a 7-0 shutout of Rota in a nine-on-nine game necessitated by the Admirals' depleted state.

The Rota girls announced their intention to compete for the wide-open Division II title with a 2-1 defeat of a vastly improved Marymount. That capped a

dominant weekend in Aviano that has the Admirals positioned for a prolonged tournament run.

AFNORTH: The Lions didn't come away with any wins in their two girls soccer matches over the weekend, but they didn't take any losses either. AFNORTH played Alconbury to a 1-1 tie on Friday and deadlocked Lakenheath at the same score the next day.

Alconbury: Victoria Flores scored a goal in each of the Dragons' girls soccer games over the weekend. Her second-half goal against AFNORTH on Friday earned her the Lions.

Ansbach: The Cougars will spend the bulk of their track and field season packed into massive road meets alongside much larger schools. But Ansbach gets some breathing room May 5 as it hosts a five-team meet featuring just one Division I opponent.

Baumholder: The Bucs have struggled on the boys soccer pitch to date, but they'll have a chance to get back in the Division III mix in May. Baumholder visits Bavaria on May 4-5 for key divisional matchups with Ansbach and Hohenfels.

Black Forest Academy: The Falcons outclassed girls soccer visitor Baumholder 7-0 margin on Saturday. Amanda Van Zommeren had three goals.

Brussels: The Brigands will see their first Division I boys soccer opponent since their season opener on Friday as they face a strong SHAPE outfit. That first experience went well for Brussels, which beat Lakenheath 3-0 on March 23.

Hohenfels: The Tigers tangled with much larger Division I opponent Wiesbaden on the soccer pitch Saturday. But that's the last such predicament for Hohenfels, which sees only Division I and III competition for the duration of the regular season.

Kaiserslautern: The Raiders collected a key pair of Division I softball wins over Wiesbaden on Saturday. The victories represented Kaiserslautern's first doubleheader sweep of the year after splits with Spangdahlem and Vilsbeck.

Lakenheath: The Lancers track and field team will make its first trip to the European mainland this weekend with a visit to Wiesbaden. Lakenheath hosted its opening meet and visited nearby Alconbury on Saturday.

Ramstein: The Royals took control of the Division I boys soccer standings Friday with a 3-1 defeat of the SHAPE Spartans. Chris Slover scored a pair of goals and Dylan Grimes notched a goal and an assist in the victory.

SHAPE: The Spartans picked up a hard-won baseball doubleheader sweep of regional and divisional rival Lakenheath on Saturday. SHAPE scored five runs in the third inning of its 6-3 opening win and rode a late rally to a 6-5 win in the second game.

Sigonella: The Jaguars put their diamond rivals on immediate notice when their four-school baseball and softball meet started Friday. The Sigonella softball team beat Aviano 12-3 and Rota 9-1. The Jaguar baseball team earned 7-0 and 11-2 wins, respectively, over Rota and Aviano.

Spangdahlem: The Sentinels took over a close girls soccer game with Alconbury on Saturday with a decisive second-half blitz, outscoring the Dragons 5-3 after halftime in a 6-2 victory. Emma Passig scored four goals.

Wiesbaden: The Warriors routed overmatched girls soccer opponent Hohenfels 8-1 on Saturday. Peggy Sue Mathis led the way with four goals and an assist in the game.

—Stars and Stripes

Kyle Busch pulls away at Richmond

By HANK KURZ JR.

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Kyle Busch raced to his third straight victory, celebrated, and then got yelled at by his boss.

Joe Gibbs, it seems, hadn't seen Busch climb into the crowd to acknowledge what appeared to be friendly fan.

"You did?" Gibbs said. "Oh my gosh! You should not do that. You run a risk."

For Busch, though, it seemed appropriate, coming at the end of a week marked by ample discussion of his dustup with Dale Earnhardt Jr. at Richmond a decade earlier. That race, many believe, is what cemented Busch's reputation as NASCAR's newest on-track villain.

"It was the 10-year anniversary of you know what," Busch explained, and he could see fans wearing his gear.

On the track, Busch pulled away on a restart in a two-lap overtime sprint to the finish in NASCAR's Cup Series.

Busch, who started 32nd but quickly worked his way into contention, outran Chase Elliott and teammate Denny Hamlin for his fifth career victory at Richmond Raceway, the most among active drivers. The victory is his 46th overall and came from the deepest starting spot in the field of his career. It also is the deepest starting position for a winner at Richmond, surpassing Clint Bowyer, who started 31st in 2008.

The points leader also matched Kevin Harvick's three-race winning streak from earlier in the season.

"Pats on the back, everybody," Busch said on his radio after taking the checkered flag.

The race went more than 350 laps with the only cautions coming after stages one and two, both won by defending race champion Joey Logano, who finished fourth. It remained clean until Ryan Blaney and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. crashed on Lap 353, bringing out the first on-track yellow.

Busch took the lead after the next caution, brought out by the

smoking car of Ryan Newman, when he was running second to Truex heading onto pit road and got out first. He also beat Hamlin and Harvick off the line on a restart with six to go, and then never let anyone contend when the race went back to green for the final time on Lap 400.

"The pit crew tonight, they won this race for us," Busch said. "They got us off pit road first those last two times and got us where we needed to be."

The three-race winning streak is the second of his career. The first came in 2015, when he won his only championship.

"I don't know if you can shoot for four in a row," he said. "It's hard to go to Tallagega with this much of a winning streak and think that you can get to Victory Lane."

Truex, who ran up front all night. He and Busch were dueling after a restart with 23 laps to go, and after Busch pulled away, Truex seemed to be closing ground until a spin by David Ragan brought out the yellow.

All the front-runners pitted, and while Truex's team struggled mightily in the No. 1 pit stall, Truex could only watch as contender after contender beat him off pit road. He lost at least seven spots by the time NASCAR had sorted out the next restart starting order.

Hamlin was dejected after Friday's practice sessions, saying his car was missing the mark badly.

But he rallied in qualifying, earning the fourth starting spot, and rallied again in the race for the third place finish.

"I mean, probably would have taken it after yesterday," Hamlin said of the finish. "But we got close there. We just got better as the race went on. We were 13th, 15th, something like that in the first half of the race. Just weren't very strong. We made some really good adjustments that got us rolling towards the front, especially on long runs. We got to the top five, then we had some pit stops there."



STEVE HELBER/AP

Kyle Busch celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series race at Richmond Raceway on Saturday.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

First round	
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Tampa Bay 4, New Jersey 1	
Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2	
New Jersey 5, Tampa Bay 2	
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1	
Saturday: Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1	
Boston 3, Toronto 2	
Boston 5, Toronto 1	
Boston 7, Toronto 3	
Toronto 4, Boston 2	
Boston 3, Toronto 1	
Sunday: Toronto 4, Boston 3	
Monday: at Toronto	
x-Wednesday: at Boston	
Washington 5, Columbus 2	
Columbus 4, Washington 3, OT	
Columbus 3, Washington 1, OT	
Washington 3, Columbus 2, 2OT	
Washington 4, Columbus 1	
Saturday: Washington 4, Columbus 3, OT	
Monday: at Columbus	
Wednesday: at Washington	
Pittsburgh 3, Philadelphia 2	
Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 0	
Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 2	
Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 1	
Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 0	
Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 2	
Sunday: at Philadelphia	
x-Tuesday: at Pittsburgh	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Nashville 1, Colorado 2	
Nashville 5, Colorado 2	
Nashville 4, Colorado 4	
Nashville 3, Colorado 2	
Nashville 3, Colorado 4	
Colorado 2, Nashville 1	
Saturday: at Nashville	
Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1	
Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 2	
Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1	
Minnesota 5, Winnipeg 2	
Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 0	
Winnipeg 5, Minnesota 0	
Vegas 4, Los Angeles 0	
Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0	
Vegas 3, Los Angeles 1, 2OT	
Vegas 3, Los Angeles 2	
Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0	
San Jose 4, Anaheim 0	
San Jose 3, Anaheim 0	
San Jose 3, Anaheim 2	
San Jose 5, Anaheim 1	
San Jose 4, Anaheim 1	

Saturday	
Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 3	
Toronto 2, Boston 0-4	
Boston 0, Toronto 1-3	
First Period—1, Toronto, Boston 1 (Hyman, Matthews), 6:35; 2, Toronto, Johnson 1 (Gardiner, Kadri), 10:12.	
Second Period—3, Boston, Backes 2 (DeBruin, Krup), 9:45 (pp); 4, Toronto, Bozak 2 (Rielly, van Riemsdyk), 10:36, 5, Toronto, van Riemsdyk 3 (Bozak, Marner), 11:55 (pp), 6, Boston, Kuraly 2 (Acclari, Gresham), 17:16.	
Third Period—7, Boston, Acclari 1 (Krup, Schaller), 5:56.	
Shots on Goal—Toronto 6-10-5-21, Boston 15-10-20-45.	
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 1 of 1; Boston 1 of 6.	
Goalies—Toronto, Andersen 2-2 (45 shots-42 saves); Boston, Khudbin 0-4 (8), Rask 3-2 (13-9).	
A—17,565 (17,565), T—2:41.	

Capitals 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT)	
Columbus 1 1 1 0-3	
Washington 3 1 2 0-4	
First Period—1, Columbus, Calvert 2 (Jones), 10:08 (sh); 2, Washington, Backstrom 1 (Kempey, Stephenson), 12:22.	
Second Period—3, Washington, Kuznetsov 4 (Orlov), 3:21, 4, Columbus, Calvert 3, 4:45, 5, Washington, Oshie 3 (Carlson, Backstrom), 16:42 (pp).	
Third Period—1, Columbus, Bjorkstrand 1 (Wennergren, Cole), 2:30.	
Overtime—7, Washington, Backstrom 2 (Orlov, Stephenson), 11:53.	
Shots on Goal—Columbus 19-16-6-42, Washington 7-13-18-38.	
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 5; Washington 1 of 4.	
Goalies—Columbus, Bobrovsky 23 (29 shots-25 saves), Washington, Holtby 31 (42-39).	
A—8,506 (18,277), T—3:1.	

Lightning 3, Devils 1	
New Jersey 0 0 1-1	
Tampa Bay 3 0 1-2	
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Sergachev 1 (Cirelli), 8:07.	
Second Period—2, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 5 (Stamkos, Stralman), 12:27, 3, New Jersey, Maroon 1 (Poirier, Suter), 17:00, 4, Tampa Bay, Callahan 1 (McDonald), 19:50.	
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 11-4-12-27, Tampa Bay 10-18-10-30.	
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 1; Tampa Bay 0 of 5.	
Goalies—New Jersey, Schneider 1-2 (27 shots-25 saves), Tampa Bay, Vasilevsky 4-1 (27-26).	
A—15,029 (19,092), T—2:32.	

Backstrom lifts Caps with OT goal

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Overtime came at the perfect time for the Washington Capitals.

Outshot, outskated and outplayed by the Columbus Blue Jackets in a lopsided third period of Game 5, the Capitals went into their locker room at intermission Saturday with no choice but to talk about what went wrong in blowing yet another lead.

"We knew we had to be better," Nicklas Backstrom said.

Better they were in a dominant overtime that Backstrom ended 11:53 in with his second goal of the game to give Washington a 4-3 victory and a 3-2 lead over the Blue Jackets in the first-round series. Thanks to goaltender Braden Holtby making 15 of his 39 saves in the third period and Backstrom's first two goals of these playoffs, the Metropolitan Division champions can close out Columbus on the road Monday in Game 6.

"I think we've always regrouped at intermissions and came back," said Holtby, who has stopped 102 of 109 shots since replacing Philipp Grubauer in net two periods into Game 2. "It shows our confidence and our experience in a lot of areas."

The playoff-tested Capitals took punch after punch when they were outshot 16-1 by the Blue Jackets in the third period, including Oliver Bjorkstrand's deflection goal 2:30 in that tied it. Holtby made saves in quantity and quality, most notably on Columbus No. 1 center Pierre-Luc Dubois on a rebound and again on an attempt to bat the puck out of the air, to get to overtime for the fourth time in



Nick Wass/AP

Capitals center Nicklas Backstrom, right, celebrates his winning goal with T.J. Oshie in overtime of Game 5 of their first-round playoff series against the Blue Jackets on Saturday in Washington.

five games this series.

That's when everything changed. Suddenly, two-time Vezina Trophy-winning goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky was besieged, having to stop Alex Ovechkin and John Carlson from point-blank range early in overtime.

"We just came out as a new team," Carlson said. "We've went out and attacked in every game that we've won. That was our mindset, and I think we played a great overtime."

Overtime has been the difference in this series. Artemi Panarin and Matt Calvert scored the winners in Games 1 and 2 for Columbus, Lars Eller in double OT in Game 3 for Wash-

ington and then Backstrom in Game 5, deflecting defenseman Dmitry Orlov's shot past Bobrovsky to send the sellout crowd in Washington into a frenzy.

"I got a tip on it, and it's usually what happens in the playoffs," Backstrom said. "Tip goals or rebound goals. That's the way it is."

The road team won the first four games of a Stanley Cup playoff series for the fifth time over the past 10 years. Holtby's 39 saves, including a big one on Bjorkstrand in overtime, made sure the home team won Game 5 for the fifth time.

"One of our best players, our goalie, was our best player again," Washington forward Brett Connolly said. "He's come in here and he's played three amazing games. Kudos to him. He's been great for us and we obviously need him to keep playing this way if we're going to be successful."

Bobrovsky didn't play poorly other than perhaps a soft goal allowed to Evgeny Kuznetsov early in the second period. After two goals from Matt Calvert and his team's effort wasn't enough Saturday, coach John Tortorella is betting on "Bob" to come up big again in Game 6.

"Two good goalies. Good game," Tortorella said. "We'll be back here for Game 7."

It's now the Capitals' goal to avoid a Game 7 at home, where they're 2-5 over the past decade in the Ovechkin era. Coach Barry Trotz, whose team has lost the past two times they've played Game 7 at home, shrugged off Tortorella's assurance of a game in Washington on Wednesday after players insisted they know what to expect from Columbus in Game 6.

"What else is he going to say?" Trotz said. "It's our job for that not to happen."

Roundup

Lightning finish off Devils to advance

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Lightning understand what it takes to be successful in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"You need your best players to be the best players, and they rose to the occasion," coach Jon Cooper said Saturday after the top seed in the Eastern Conference beat the New Jersey Devils 3-1, ending their first-round series in five games.

"People are going to look at this series and say: 'Oh, 4-1. Tampa took it to them.' Anybody that was actually watching these games knew clearly that's not what happened in this series," Cooper added. "It was fought from the drop of the puck to the end. We just happened to get big goals at the right time."

Nikita Kucherov scored his 27th career postseason goal and Andrei Vasilevsky stopped 26 shots for the Lightning, who advanced to a second-round matchup against either the Boston Bruins or Toronto Maple Leafs. Kucherov, the NHL's third-leading scorer during the regular season with 100 points, had five goals and five assists in the five games, setting a franchise for points in a playoff series. He also tied Vincent Lecavalier for second-place on the club's all-time postseason scoring list.

"I thought he elevated (his play) throughout the series, no



Chris O'Meara/AP

Lightning center Brayden Point, right, shoots against Devils goaltender Cory Schneider during the second period of Game 5 in their playoff series Saturday in Tampa, Fla.

question." Cooper said of the 24-year-old, two-time All-Star, who has 27 goals and 25 assists in 50 career playoff games.

"He's an extreme competitor," New Jersey coach John Hynes said. "When you look at a guy like Kucherov, he has talent but he's not a perimeter player. He's very strong on the puck, he completes hard, he's got good hockey sense. He's the type of offensive player you need to have success if you're going to have a chance to win the Stanley Cup."

Mikhail Sergachev, 19, became

the youngest player in Lightning history to score a playoff goal and Ryan Callahan, back in the lineup after missing the previous two games with an upper-body injury, sealed it with an empty-netter for the Atlantic Division champions with 1:7 seconds remaining.

Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 3: Tyler Bozak and James van Riemsdyk scored 1:19 apart in the second period, and then Toronto killed off a 5-on-3 and three more power plays in a row to beat host Boston and avoid elimination.

Connor Brown and Andreas Jonsson each scored his first

career playoff goal in the first period, and the Maple Leafs took a 4-1 lead to chase Tuukka Rask in the second. Toronto also led 4-1 in Game 7 of the teams' 2013 playoff series before the Bruins won in overtime en route to their second Stanley Cup final berth in two years. This time, Boston cut the deficit to one goal but the Leafs held on.

Frederik Andersen stopped 42 shots for Toronto.

Jake DeBruin and Sean Kuraly scored for the Bruins. Patrice Bergeron returned after missing one game.

MLB



JOHN AMES/AP

The Braves' Johan Camargo dives across home plate for the winning run as Mets catcher Jose Lobaton, left, reaches for him during the ninth inning Saturday in Atlanta. The Braves won 4-3.

Roundup

Braves rally, slide past Mets

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A pair of perfectly placed ground balls helped the Atlanta Braves pull off an unexpected win over the New York Mets.

Johan Camargo tripled home the tying run, then scored on Ender Inciarte's bunt single as the Atlanta Braves scored twice in the ninth inning off Mets closer Jeurys Familia to beat New York 4-3 Saturday night.

It took a rare game-tying triple in the ninth inning by Johan Camargo and a better walk-off bunt by Ender Inciarte off New York closer Jeurys Familia, who entered the game unscored upon and tied for the major league lead with eight saves.

A crowd of 41,396 that was the largest of the season at SunTrust Stadium saw starters Jacob deGrom and Julio Teheran each pitch seven scoreless innings.

After they left, the bullpeners willed.

Familia (1-1) issued a leadoff walk to Dansby Swanson and Camargo followed with a grounder right of second base that rocketed past diving second baseman Asdrubal Cabrera and snaked between outfielders Michael Conforto and Jay Bruce to right-center field the ball. That tied the game.

Camargo held when pinch-hitter Kurt Suzuki singled off the glove of Mets third baseman Todd Frazier, and after Familia struck out pinch hitter Charlie Culberson, Inciarte went to plate planning to swing away.

"I was going to swing the bat ...," Inciarte said. "Once I walked into the box and I saw Camargo at third, I always told the runners be ready, I might bunt at any time."

Mets first baseman Adrian Gonzalez was at medium depth, and after Inciarte punched the ball at him with too much speed for Familia to field, the throw to the plate was too late to get the

sliding Camargo.

"We had an idea he might do that. That's a really tough play to defend," said Mets manager Mickey Callaway. "You just have to hope he pops it up or something."

Astros 10, White Sox 1: Josh Reddick hit a grand slam and a solo homer, and visiting Houston pounded reeling Chicago.

Already struggling on the field — and especially on the mound — the White Sox were dealt another blow Saturday when they learned that reliever Danny Farquhar suffered a brain hemorrhage while collapsing in the dugout Friday.

Brewers 6, Marlins 5: Jesus Aguilar homered on the 13th pitch leading off the bottom of the ninth inning, and host Milwaukee rallied for its fifth consecutive win.

Indians 4, Orioles 0: Mike Clevinger pitched a two-hitter in his first career complete game, and visiting Cleveland hit three solo homers off Chris Tillman.

Jose Ramirez went 3-for-4 with his team-leading fifth home run.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 1: Aaron Judge hit an early homer off respected Twitter rival Marcus Stroman, then scored on a disputed play during a seven-run burst in the sixth inning that sent host New York over Toronto.

Judge put the Yankees up 2-0 with his sixth homer, a two-run drive in the third.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 2: Zack Godley settled down after a shaky start to throw 5 1/3 solid innings and singled home a run as Arizona beat San Diego.

Cardinals 4, Reds 3: Yadier Molina hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning and rookie reliever Jordan Hicks got Scooter Gennett to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded, lifting host St. Louis over Cincinnati.

The Cardinals have won seven of eight, including six against the Reds. The Reds dropped their fourth straight, and second under

interim manager Jim Riggleman, and fell to 3-17 this season.

Phillies 6, Pirates 2: Rhys Hoskins hit a go-ahead three-run homer, Aaron Nola tossed seven impressive innings and host Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh.

Nola (2-1) allowed two runs, six hits and struck out nine to help the Phillies win their third straight game.

Rockies 5, Cubs 2: Nolan Arenado had two hits to back six strong innings from Tyler Anderson and host Colorado used a big fifth inning to beat Chicago.

Anderson (1-0) got his first win in five starts and tamed a Chicago lineup that had 16 runs on 18 hits in the series opener on Friday night. The Cubs managed just six hits on the night, two from Albert Almora Jr., who had four in Friday's win.

Rays 10, Twins 1: C.J. Cron hit a pair of two-run homers and Blake Snell won his third straight start for host Tampa Bay.

Tigers 12, Royals 4: Nicholas Castellanos homered and drove in three runs, and host Detroit routed Kansas City.

The Tigers have won five of six. Detroit broke a 3-all tie with three runs in the fifth on a day when both starting pitchers were in almost constant trouble.

Dodgers 4, Nationals 0: Joe Pederson, Kike Hernandez and Cody Bellinger all homered, and Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched seven innings of two-hit ball to lead Los Angeles.

Ryu (3-0) struck out eight and walked two, Tony Gonsu pitched the eighth and Kenley Jansen got the last three outs to finish the shutout and give the Dodgers their fifth win in the last six games.

Mariners 9, Rangers 7: Nelson Cruz homered for the 100th time at his former home, Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking shot and visiting Seattle held on to beat Texas.

By **BERNIE WILSON**
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — It took a milestone hit by Albert Pujols to give the Los Angeles Angels their first lead of the week.

Pujols drove a go-ahead, two-run homer into the seats in right-center in the sixth inning for career hit No. 2,992 and the Angels beat the San Francisco Giants 4-3 on Saturday night to snap an ugly four-game losing streak.

Mike Trout and Jeffry Marte also went deep for the Angels, and Garrett Richards matched his career high with 11 strikeouts in six innings. The Giants struck out 17 times.

Pujols, 38, hit a no-doubt, opposite-field shot to right-center on an 0-1 pitch from lefty Derek Holland with one out in the sixth.

"I just got a good pitch up and away and went with it," said Pujols, who went 1-for-4 as the designated hitter. "I think I've been swinging the bat pretty well, making solid contact."

He needs eight hits to become the 32nd member of the 3,000-hit club.

"Right now, that's not my focus," Pujols said. "I'm telling you, from my heart it is what it is. I really don't think about it. At the end of the day, it's not about my numbers, it's about helping this organization and helping this ballclub to win and that's my main goal every day."

His manager and teammates sure enjoyed the homer.

"It's a huge hit at the time," manager Mike Scioscia said. "He drove it the way you, which is a great sign for Albert. We haven't scored many runs, haven't had many leads this week, so there's no doubt he gave us a big lift."

Trout was waiting at the top step of the dugout to give Pujols a bro hug before the slugger began high-fiving teammates.

"We were all lit," Richards said. "We were all excited. It put us ahead. He really looked like

Albert Pujols again. He's coming around. A lot of guys are coming around. Hopefully we're coming out of this rut and can put together a good string of runs."

Richards helped stop an embarrassing four-game pummeling. The Angels lost 8-1 to the Giants on Friday night after being outscored 27-3 in a three-game sweep by the Boston Red Sox.

"I don't think the 30 guys that we have here are getting concerned about it," Pujols said. "This is just the first month of the season."

Pujols came up with runners on the corners and one out in the eighth and grounded into a double play.

Richards (3-0) held San Francisco to two runs and five hits, with one walk. Keynan Middleton got a four-out save, his fifth in as many chances.

"Lot of strikeouts tonight. We did some chasing," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. Richards "went to the slider. He probably threw 50 percent sliders and we had a hard time laying off it, especially 3-2."

All three Angels home runs were off Holland (0-3).

Trout homered into the rocks beyond the fence in center field an inning after nearly robbing Brandon Belt of a two-run homer. His second in as many games and his eighth overall, it came on 0-1 pitch and tied the game at 2.

In the second, Trout leaped and had Belt's fly ball in his glove for a moment before it popped out when he hit the wall and it went over the yellow line. Pablo Sandoval was on second base after a strikeout-wild pitch followed by another wild pitch by Richards. It was Belt's fourth homer.

"I had no idea," Belt said. "I didn't even know it was a home run. I thought it was a double. I couldn't see."

Said Trout: "If I'm a couple of steps toward right field, I make that catch."



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

The Angels' Albert Pujols watches his two-run home run against the Giants during the sixth inning Saturday in Anaheim, Calif.

MLB/NBA PLAYOFFS

Moment: Oakland's Manaea tosses first no-hitter of season

FROM BACK PAGE

a tag by first baseman Matt Olson and was called safe.

Benintendi ran onto the grass in foul territory to get around Olson. The umpires then conferred and, without going to replay, ruled Benintendi was out for going wide of the baseline.

"Do I agree with it? No," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "It is what it is."

Said Benintendi: "It's just a missed call."

"I think if we have 10 hits at that point, that's a single. But the situation the game was in, they might have been searching for something and they found it," Benintendi said.

Crew chief Brian Gorman said the ump's reached their decision "pretty fast."

"If he goes more than 3 feet avoiding the tag, he's declared out," Gorman told a pool reporter. "He was more than 3 feet away."

Sandy Leon reached in the Red Sox fifth when A's shortstop Marcus Semien ranged into shallow center field and dropped a popup trying to make an over-the-shoulder catch. The play was scored as an error.

"I was running back and I heard (center fielder Mark) Canha was yelling, 'Marcus, Marcus,' and I thought he said, 'I got it,'" Semien said, "but I still think I should've caught the ball."

"Usually I don't want to make errors, but in that situation you take the error," he said.

In Manaea's mind, it was a single.

"I just thought it was a hit, so from there until the eighth or ninth, I thought it was just a one-hitter," Manaea said.

A few innings later, he noticed what everybody else already knew — no-hitter in progress.

"So after that, my adrenaline started pumping a little bit again,

and I really wanted to finish this thing out," he said.

Manaea (3-2) had been battered by Boston in three previous starts, going 1-2 with a 13.50 ERA.

But the 26-year-old cooled off a Red Sox team that had won eight in a row and 17 of 18. Boston began the game with a major league-best .293 batting average.

"Congratulations Sean Manaea, you were really good tonight bro," Ramirez tweeted.

Manaea retired 14 straight batters after walking Mookie Betts leading off the game.

A lot of Red Sox fans were in the announced crowd of 25,746, and many rose to their feet when Manaea took the mound in the ninth.

Betts hit a ball to the warning track with one out in the ninth. After Benintendi walked with two outs on a full count, Ramirez hit a grounder to Semien for an easy force play at second.

"My heart was beating out of my chest and I was trying to do everything I could (to stay calm)," Manaea said before he was interrupted by teammates who smeared celebratory shaving cream in his face, dumped water and Gatorade on his head and left him with a plastic bubble gum tub for a hat.

"I've caught a lot of great pitchers in this game," A's catcher Jonathan Lucroy said. "I have eight years in the (majors) and that was most well-pitched, well-executed game I've ever had behind the plate."

"I mean, they were all messed over there, they had no idea," he said.

It was the 12th no-hitter by the Athletics franchise and the 12th thrown against the Red Sox.

This was the first no-hitter in the majors since Miami's Edinson Volquez pitched the only one of the 2017 season against Arizona on June 3.



JOHN HEFT/AP

Oakland starting pitcher Sean Manaea, right, celebrates with catcher Jonathan Lucroy after pitching a no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox on Saturday in Oakland, Calif. The A's won 3-0.



JOE SKIPPER/AP

Heat guard Goran Dragic is defended by Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons during Saturday's Game 4 of their first-round series in Miami. Simmons became the first rookie since Magic Johnson in 1980 to post a playoff triple-double — 17 points, 13 rebounds, 10 assists. The 76ers won 106-102.

Roundup

Simmons, Sixers top Heat

Associated Press

MIAMI — Ben Simmons had the first playoff triple-double by a rookie in nearly 40 years, JJ Redick scored 24 points and the Philadelphia 76ers outlasted the Miami Heat 106-102 on Saturday to move within a victory of the second round.

The 76ers lead the Eastern Conference series 3-1 and can close out the Heat when play resumes in Philadelphia on Tuesday night.

Simmons became the first rookie since Magic Johnson in 1980 to post a playoff triple-double — 17 points, 13 rebounds, 10 assists. Joel Embiid finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia.

Dwyane Wade led all scorers with 25 points off the bench for the Heat, who led by 12 points in the second half before letting a game they almost certainly had to have slip away. Wade carried the comeback effort, with the Heat down six and less than 2 minutes left. His three-point play cut the margin in half and his next two field goals got Miami within one each time. The Heat got no closer.

Timberwolves 121, Rockets 105: Jimmy Butler hit four three-pointers among his 28 points and Karl-Anthony Towns snapped back from a bad start to the series with 18 points and 16 rebounds, leading Minnesota past visiting Houston for its first postseason victory in 14 years.

Jeff Teague scored 23 points and Andrew Wiggins pitched in 20 points with another four three-pointers, helping the Timberwolves match the fire-away Rockets from behind the arc and cruise down the stretch behind a 50 percent shooting performance.

Derrick Rose added 17 points off the bench for the Wolves, who will try to even the series with a win in Game 4 on Monday night.

James Harden led the way for Houston with 29 points, but Chris Paul fouled out with 17 points and the Rockets went just 15 for 41 from three-point range.

Jazz 115, Thunder 102: Ricky Rubio had 26 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Utah's first playoff triple-double in 17 years, and Donovan Mitchell added 22 points to lead the host Jazz past Oklahoma City for a 2-1 lead in their first-round series.



JIM MONE/AP

Minnesota's Jimmy Butler led the Timberwolves with 28 points in a 121-105 Game 3 victory over the Houston Rockets on Saturday in Minneapolis.

Joe Ingles, who had 21 points, made two three-pointers around two free throws to spark a 13-0 surge that ended on Mitchell's three to put Utah up by 20 points in the fourth quarter.

Rubio's triple-double was the first by a Jazz player in the postseason since John Stockton in the 2001 playoffs against Dallas.

Paul George scored 23 points and Carmelo Anthony, Russell Westbrook and Raymond Felton each had 14 for the Thunder. Westbrook also had 11 rebounds and nine assists, just missing his ninth playoff triple-double but also had eight turnovers and shot 5-for-17.

Scoreboard

Pelicans sweep Blazers

Lillard's lament: Lillard, who never scored more than 20 in the series and was held below that three times, said he would have loved to shoot more, but the Pelicans' commitment to defend him early in possessions with multiple players made it difficult.

"They came in with a great defensive game plan, threw something at us that we hadn't seen and it worked out for them," Lillard said.

Thunder center Steven Adams fouls Jazz center Rudy Gobert during the second half of Game 3 of their first-round playoff series Saturday in Salt Lake City. The Jazz won 115-102.

SPORTS



Pelicans sweep Blazers

Davis scores 47 in dominant Game 4 effort » **NBA, Page 31**

MLB



Athletics pitcher Sean Manaea celebrates his no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox on Saturday in Oakland, Calif.

JOHN HEFTY/AP

Manaea's moment

A's lefty pitches no-no against sizzling Red Sox

BY GIDEON RUBIN
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif.

Sean Manaea might've been the only person at the Oakland Coliseum who didn't realize he was still working on a no-hitter.

After a dropped popup in the fifth inning, the Athletics lefty figured it was over.

"I didn't even think about it until I looked up in the seventh or eighth," Manaea said, "and I was like, 'Oh my God, why is there still a zero on there?'"

Because it was ruled an error. And because his shot at history remained intact.

'I just telling myself, keep everything the same, and not let anything get too big for me.'

Sean Manaea
Oakland A's pitcher

Manaea became the first pitcher to throw a no-hitter against Boston in almost exactly 25 years, with an overturned call on the bases preserving the gem Saturday night in Oakland's 3-0 win over the streaking Red Sox.

Manaea struck out 10, walked two and threw 108 pitches to finish off Oakland's first no-no since Dallas Braden tossed a perfect game against Tampa Bay in 2010.

Manaea got Hanley Ramirez to ground out to complete the first no-hitter versus the Red Sox since Seattle's Chris Bosio did it on April 22, 1993.

"I just telling myself, keep everything the same, and not let anything get too big for me," Manaea said.

Boston looked as if it had a hit with two outs in the sixth at the Oakland Coliseum. Andrew Benintendi hit a grounder to the right side, tried to dodge

SEE MOMENT ON PAGE 30

Inside:

- Pujols lifts Angels over Giants, closes on 3,000th hit, Page 29
- Braves rally in ninth, slide past Mets, Page 29

Caps win on Backstrom's overtime goal » **NHL, Page 27**

